

Southborough Cultural Arts Council (SCAC) Meeting Minutes

Date: November 18, 2025

Time: 7:27 PM

Attendees (Roll Call)

- **Kate Heusner:** Present (Chair)
- **Nicole Boloz:** Present
- **Nyah Yazdani:** Present
- **Jane Gates:** Present
- **Rajani Kumari:** Present

Agenda & Key Business

The primary focus of this monthly meeting was the **Grant Review**.

1. Approval of Minutes

- **Action:** Approval of minutes from both the September and October meetings was required, as full attendance was not achieved at the last meeting.
- **Motion to Approve:** Made by Nicole Boloz.
- **Second:** Made by Jane Gates.
- **Outcome:** Motion carried.

2. Chair Report

- **Budget Request:** Budget requests have been circulated. The Chair plans to submit the same budget amount requested last year and will share it via email for review before it goes to the Town for approval.
- **Moonshot Grant Overview:** Completing the draft of the Moonshot Grant description is pending. The Chair anticipates having a draft in the next two weeks and will share it by the end of the month.
- **Next Step:** The committee will decide whether to approve the Moonshot Grant description at the December meeting.

3. Treasurer Report

- **Update:** Rajani Kumari was thanked for her work facilitating the grant reimbursements, which is a critical step for paying the artists. One

reimbursement was signed off on last week, with one or two more anticipated before the end of the calendar year.

4. Grant Review & Discussion (Funding Consideration)

The committee reviewed all grant applications in two stages: first, to determine if the application met the criteria for funding consideration, and second, to discuss specific funding amounts. The general criteria focused on programs being in/around Southborough, serving the community, and relating to arts and cultural programs.

✓ Applications Approved for Funding Consideration (Green Status)

Applicant	Amount Requested	Committee Decision
Graphic Novel Experience (Algonquin Regional High School)	\$750	Approved for funding consideration.
Assabet Valley Master Singers	\$2,000	Approved for funding consideration.
Interboro Community Band	\$300	Approved for funding consideration.
Michelle Lou	\$400	Approved for funding consideration.
Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild	\$750	Approved for funding consideration.
Messiah Community Chorus	\$1,000	Approved for funding consideration.
Chris Swanson (Senior Center)	\$225	Approved for funding consideration.
Roger Tinknell (Senior Center)	\$570	Approved for funding consideration.
Southborough Library Soul Speak	\$350	Approved for funding consideration.
Southborough Housing Authority Craft Workshop	\$500	Approved for funding consideration.
Southborough Rec Center (Rec Connects)	\$2,500	Approved for funding consideration.
Catherine Weber (Art on the Trails)	\$750	Approved for funding consideration.
Juliana Perez (Triscentennial Project)	\$3,500	Approved for funding consideration.

● Applications Tabled for Discussion (Yellow Status)

The following applications were moved down for discussion but later removed from consideration, or the committee was split on the decision:

- **Discovery Museum Open Door Connections:** Removed from consideration. Concern was noted regarding the "loose connection" to the town, though the program itself is excellent (providing free admission to low-income Southborough families).
- **MetroWest Tourism World Cup Fan Zone:** Removed from consideration. Despite the cultural importance of the World Cup, the connection to arts and culture criteria was deemed weak.
- **Southborough Public Schools Story Bridge Program:** Removed from consideration due to the small number of youth served (100) relative to the high amount requested.
- **Karen Tracktenburg Media Arts:** The project was viewed as a positive arts idea but lacked strong local connection.

✗ Applications Removed from Consideration (Red Status)

- **Hopkinton Center for the Arts (New Year's Eve Party)**
- **Northboro Area Community Chorus**
- **Upasana at Hopkinton Center for the Arts**
- **Westborough Community Chorus**
- **Women of Note Concert Series**
- **Rock Institute, John Haverhall, Dennis Wise:** Removed due to incomplete data, lack of venue confirmation, or failure to meet the application deadline/criteria.

💰 Funding Decisions Summary

The remaining budget for discretionary grants from the state allocation is **\$6,400**.

Here are the final, precise meeting minutes showing the approved funding amounts, formatted in a table for easy copying and pasting into a Word document. The total amount allocated is **\$8,120.00**.

💰 SCAC Grant Funding Decisions Summary

Applicant	Funding Granted
Algonquin Regional High School: Graphic Novel Experience	\$750.00
Assabet Valley Mastersingers	\$250.00
Interboro Community Band	\$300.00

Applicant	Funding Granted
Michelle Liu	\$400.00
Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild, Inc.	\$750.00
Messiah Community Chorus	\$250.00
Juliana Perez, project for Tricentennial	\$1,500.00
Southborough Library: Soul Speak	\$350.00
Kris Swanson / Highland Woods at Senior Center	\$250.00
Roger Tinknell at Southborough Senior Center	\$570.00
Town of Southborough Housing Authority - Craft Workshop	\$500.00
Town of Southborough Rec Center - Rec Connects	\$1,000.00
Catherine Weber / Art on the Trails	\$750.00
TOTAL ALLOCATED	\$7620

Next Steps

- The Chair will draft a summary of the decisions for the committee.
- The financial decision packet and award letters will be prepared and distributed before the end of the calendar year.
- The Chair will offer to meet with declined applicants (Yellow/Red categories) to offer feedback and advice for future grant applications.

Meeting concluded at ~850PM.

Documents used at this meeting:

- Grant packet
- Grant evaluation criteria

FY25 MCC LCC SCAC
Grant Evaluation Criteria

Funding Priorities	Evaluation Criteria	Qualities of Strong Application
1. Funding for programs to be held in Southborough and surrounding communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Degree to which the program outlined serves the Town of Southborough residents. ◦ If not located in Southborough, articulates how the program is utilized by Town of Southborough residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Program details are clearly articulated with regard to constituents served. ◦ Evidence substantiates the program description and its connection to its core audience (Town of Southborough).
2. Funding for individuals and organizations from Southborough and surrounding communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Degree to which the individual or organization engages with the Town of Southborough residents. ◦ If not located in Southborough, articulates how the individual or organization engages with or is utilized by Town of Southborough residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Evidence is provided to show the applicant understands its core community / audience (Town of Southborough). ◦ Evidence is provided to show how the projects connects and is relevant to the Town of Southborough. ◦ Evidence is provided to show a positive impact for the Town of Southborough.
3. Funding for service organizations that benefit the Town of Southborough.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Degree to which the individual or organization engages with the Town of Southborough residents. ◦ If not located in Southborough, articulates how the individual or organization benefits Town of Southborough residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Evidence is provided to show the applicant understands its core community / audience (Town of Southborough). ◦ Evidence is provided to show a positive impact for the Town of Southborough.
4. Funding for programs that focus on the natural world and environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Degree to which the individual or organization creates connection between the Town of Southborough and the natural world and environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Evidence is provided to show that the activities contribute to focus and understanding of the natural world and environment.
5. Serve the largest possible number of people in the community with a diversity of age groups and artistic disciplines including the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Degree to which the applicant provides evidence that its project serves the largest possible audience and contributes to diversity of age and artistic discipline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Evidence is provided to show how the activities contribute to diversity (age, discipline, accessibility).

Table of Contents

	Application ID	Project Title	Applicant	Project Budget	Requested Amount
1	FY26-LCC-115493	A (Graphic) Novel Experience	Algonquin Regional High School	\$1,500	\$750
2	FY26-LCC-113808	The Assabet Valley Mastersingers's November Concert: Spirit of the Heart	Assabet Valley Mastersingers Inc.	\$22,527	\$2,000
3	FY26-LCC-125990	Spring Concert with a "Weather" theme	Black/Interboro Community Band, Barbara	\$1,500	\$300
4	FY26-LCC-124366	Open Door Connections	Discovery Museum, Inc.	\$4,800	\$400
5	FY26-LCC-119419	New Year's Eve Family Party at the HCA	Hopkinton Center for the Arts	\$4,014	\$500
6	FY26-LCC-132462	Dance and Health	Liu, Michelle	\$650	\$650
7	FY26-LCC-125766	The Massachusetts High School Drama Festival	Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild, Inc.	\$3,100	\$750
8	FY26-LCC-126593	Messiah Community Chorus presentation of Handel's Messiah	Messiah Community Chorus	\$9,990	\$1,000
9	FY26-LCC-124611	World Cup Fan Zone	MetroWest Tourism and Visitors Bureau, Inc.	\$67,400	\$500
10	FY26-LCC-117403	Spring 2026 Concert "A Patriotic Celebration"	Northborough Area Community Chorus, Inc.	\$21,500	\$1,000



Local Cultural Council Program
Southborough Cultural Arts Council
Fiscal Year FY26 Panel Book

11	FY26- LCC-132546	SpringFest 2026	Pal, Mouli	\$1,870	\$250
12	FY26- LCC-132078	The History of Southborough in Music	Perez, Juliana	\$3,500	\$3,500
13	FY26- LCC-114241	Soul Speake Alchemy Box	Southborough Library	\$350	\$350
14	FY26- LCC-118536	Storybridge	Southborough Public Schools	\$12,000	\$1,000
15	FY26- LCC-123159	Songs & Stories Music Concert	Swanson, Kris	\$225	\$225
16	FY26- LCC-132874	Concerts are for Everyone	The Rock Institute	\$800	\$500
17	FY26- LCC-124784	Pete Seeger to Peter, Paul, and Mary	Tincknell, Roger L.	\$570	\$570
18	FY26- LCC-127931	Building Community Through Art	Town of Southborough	\$500	\$500
19	FY26- LCC-114520	2026 Rec Connect Events	Town of Southborough Recreation Department	\$6,160	\$2,500
20	FY26- LCC-123586	Emerging Voices: An Evening of Short Films	Trachtenberg, Karin	\$1,250	\$500
21	FY26- LCC-120237	Live Music Making History Live	Waterman, Jon	\$400	\$400
22	FY26- LCC-117416	Art on the Trails 2026	Weber, Catherine	\$8,100	\$750
23	FY26- LCC-117997	60 Member Chorus Performance with sets and costumes	Westborough Community Chorus, Inc.	\$8,450	\$500



Local Cultural Council Program
Southborough Cultural Arts Council
Fiscal Year FY26 Panel Book

24	FY26- LCC-122098	The Theft of Dignity: School Anti-bullying Presentation	Wise, Dennis	\$950	\$950
25	FY26- LCC-130624	Women of Note 2025-2026 Concert Series	Women of Note, Incorporated	\$15,119	\$500

Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Applicant Organization Information

Review the applicant information.

****Legal Name:** Algonquin Regional High School

****Doing Business As:**

****Physical Address:**

****Address 1:** 79 Bartlett Street

****Address 2:**

****City:** Northborough

****State:** MA

****ZIP:** 01532-2098

Mailing Address (if different):

Mailing Address 1:

Mailing Address 2:

City:

State:

ZIP:

****If you need to update one of these fields, you can submit a note through the system or [email grants.team@mass.gov](mailto:grants.team@mass.gov)**

If you would like to update your organization's mailing address, please update it in your Organization Profile. Here's how:

- Click Save Draft before navigating away from this page.
- Then click on Home in the upper right corner.
- Click on Organization Profile to update the fields, and then click on Save.
- This application will be in your "In Progress" section of your Home page so you can continue working.

Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

Kimberly Honey
khoney@nsboro.k12.ma.us
508-351-7010
79 Bartlett Street
Northborough MA 01532-2098

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$750

Project Discipline

Visual Arts

Project Title

A (Graphic) Novel Experience

When will the project take place?

February 3, 2026

Where will the project take place?

Algonquin Regional High School

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project.

150

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

Yes

Where does the project take place?

After/Out-of-School

Total Number of Youth Served

150

Project Overview

Summarize the proposed project or program.

On February 3, 2026 the district librarians for the Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough will be hosting the 3rd annual NSBoro Reads Community Celebration. We would like to have graphic novelist Jonathan Todd come to the event and run multiple workshops on how to map a story, block characters, and create thumb sketches.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

The event is open to all students in the Northborough-Southborough school district, but we would like to curate this experience for students in grades 6-12.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

None

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

Mr. Todd's workshops open up a world of storytelling by empower participants to tell their stories through words and pictures. His supportive direction dispels the notion that you need to be a fine artist to be creative and reinforces the ideal that everyone's story should be told. In addition to the workshops at the NSBoro Reads Community Celebration event, we are also working with Mr. Todd to include a teacher workshop, so that teachers will be able to bring what students experience at the event into classrooms. As more teachers are incorporating UDL , understanding how cartooning could be used as a form of student engagement could be powerful and have a wid impact.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

Mr. Todd, a former second grade teacher, is the author and artist of the semi-biographical, graphic novel, Timid, which is based on his experience of moving from Florida to Southborough in middle school. He was a Jacqueline Woodson Fellow in the Solstice MFA in Creative Writing program at Lasell University, where he studied writing for children and young adults. Jonathan was the 2015 Graphic Novelist-in-Residence at the Morse Institute and Bacon Free libraries near Boston. Jonathan studied journalism and illustration at Syracuse University and English and History at Emory University. He was also an education reporter and political cartoonist.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

Audrey Alenson, Kimberly Honey , Leigh King, Clare Kelsey, Kara Bayley, Nutan Mathew, Jill Pirrera, Lisa Sheehan, and Lisa Wagoner; all are licensed librarians in the Northborough-Southborough Public Schools

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

Communication about the event will go out to the school community through the superintendent's weekly newsletter, principal communications from each school, and through parent square. For the last two years we have used these modes of communication and we have had over 500 community members attend the event each year.

Budget**Project Budget**

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Mr. Todd will work with us for four hours and offer up to four workshops. We will be able to select workshops that we feel will best suit the needs of our attendees.	\$1,500.00
		\$1,500.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

Grants have been submitted to the Massachusetts School Library Association and the Northborough Cultural Council to help cover the cost of the event.

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

Student volunteers from Algonquin, Melican, and Trottier provide all of the man power to run all of the activities the night of the event. Each of the school librarians is in charge of coordinating and organizing a component of the evening. As the event gets bigger, we are exploring the feasibility of creating a parent group to help with the planning and execution of the event.

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

If we are not able to get the full amount we are requesting, we will work with Mr. Todd to design a program that fits within our economic restraints; most likely reduce the number of workshops and eliminate the teacher workshop.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

Northborough Cultural Arts Council

Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Applicant Organization Information

Review the applicant information.

****Legal Name:** Assabet Valley Mastersingers Inc.

****Doing Business As:**

****Physical Address:**

****Address 1:** 406 Lincoln Street Unit 304

****Address 2:**

****City:** Marlborough

****State:** MA

****ZIP:** 01752-2119

Mailing Address (if different):

Mailing Address 1: PO Box 911

Mailing Address 2:

City: Northborough

State: Massachusetts

ZIP: 01532-0911

****If you need to update one of these fields, you can submit a note through the system or [email grants.team@mass.gov](mailto:grants.team@mass.gov)**

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Primary Contact

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Mike Ring
manager@avmsingers.org
314-495-2258
406 Lincoln Street Unit 304
Marlborough MA 01752-2119

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$2,000

Project Discipline

Music

Project Title

The Assabet Valley Mastersingers's November Concert: Spirit of the Heart

When will the project take place?

November 16, 2025

Where will the project take place?

Pilgrim Church, 15 Common St., Southborough, MA

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

250

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

No

Project Overview

Summarize the proposed project or program.

Assabet Valley Mastersingers is requesting \$2,000 to support our November concert, Spirit of the Heart, which will feature Beethoven's deeply expressive "Mass in C" and Durufle's poignant "Requiem" Both will explore faith, memory, and emotions that connect us something greater. The works will be performed by chorus, organ and soloists.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

The Assabet Valley Mastersingers will target Southborough residents for this concert. As we offer a range of ticket prices, including those to people who are low-income, this concert is financially accessible to all.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

\$25 for General Admission

\$20 for Seniors and Students

\$5 discounts via the Card to Culture program

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

AVM enriches communities by offering high-quality musical performances. Spirit of the Heart is a unique choral concert of two liturgical works through which all attendees will find a way to connect to their faith, to the human spirit, and beyond.

AVM contributes to the cultural fabric of communities by addressing contemporary issues like diversity and social justice through themed performances, making concerts both relevant and impactful.

We present three major concerts during each concert season, plus two community “sings” where the public can sing along with the choir. Free tickets at senior centers and discounted tickets to people who are low-income through the MCC Card to Culture program, ensure equitable access to all.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

Dr. Robert Eaton, Founder/Artistic Director, was choral director at Algonquin Regional High School for 35 years and retired after 15 years as Music Director at First Baptist Church, Lexington. Accompanist Judy Yauckoes has 28 years of experience as a music educator and is in her 36th season with AVM. Mike Ring, General Manager, has extensive nonprofit experience in fundraising and strategic planning work.

AVM also engages professional soloists and freelance instrumentalists for each concert. The success of AVM is largely due to the dedication of at least 30 active volunteers.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

AVM has professional soloists and freelance professional instrumentalists contracted for each performance during the concert season. Most of the success of AVM's operations and the reason it has been able to accomplish so much with limited financial resources is due to the very committed and active involvement of 30+ volunteers throughout the season.

The Spirit of the Heart performance will employ a professional organist to play the organ at Pilgrim Church.

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

We regularly advertise our concerts on social media, local online newspapers, online community calendars, and our website. We have a very talented Publicity Chair (volunteer) who utilizes her graphic design skills for our publicity materials.

We do invest some dollars in social media advertising, which has contributed to public engagement of our concerts.

Budget

Project Budget

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Soloists, accompanist, and section leaders	\$2,650.00
Salaries/fees: Contractors	General Manager, Artistic Director, Assistant Conductor	\$9,632.00
Production/Technical Costs	Program/ticket printing, licensing, labor	\$700.00
Space Rental	Concert, rehearsal venue	\$590.00
Supplies and Materials	Music scores, admin supplies	\$4,300.00
Marketing/Promotion	Publicity materials, advertising, website	\$2,000.00
Fundraising/Development	Publicity materials, advertising, website	\$900.00
Other (please describe)	misc. fees/dues, workshop, insurance	\$1,755.00
		\$22,527.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

Annual Fund Drive (donors and advertisers) 8500
 Fundraising event \$2600
 Grants (LCCs, Foundation, and Corporation) \$2,200
 Membership dues and music purchase \$2,010
 Program revenue \$3,100
 Other (reserve fund, designated funds, misc.) \$2,500

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

Concert equipment, organ, etc. will be loaned by Pilgrim Church in Southborough, which is the venue for the November 16 concert.

In addition, AVM has 30+ active volunteers who support things like choral operations, fundraising, or setting up concerts and rehearsal space, or managing concert receptions, and more.

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

Since the 1970s, AVM has always completed its planned season with all concerts, except during the COVID pandemic.

The Board reviews the budget quarterly; while necessary minor adjustments may be required, programming has remained intact.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

We will be applying to the Grafton, Hudson, Westborough, Marlborough, Shrewsbury, and Northborough local cultural councils to support our 2025-2026 season.

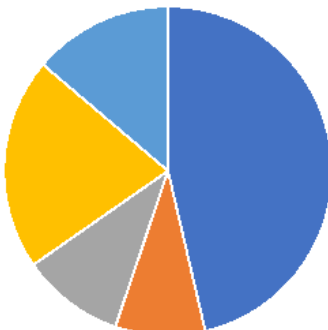
The forty-seventh year of performance excellence and innovative programming in which local talented vocalists and instrumentalists presented celebrated choral masterworks, lesser-known masterworks, and commissioned works.

THE 2024-2025 AVM SEASON HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES:

- A large number of very talented members joined for the first time.
- We had record high attendance at the season's three major concerts.
- We received enthusiastic standing ovations.
- There were numerous successful AVM Chambersingers performances.
- We partnered with videographers and captured professional video of all concerts to enable regional TV access.
- The Executive Board refined our Strategic Plan.
- AVM participated in the Mass Cultural Council Card to Culture program, which provides EBT, WIC, and ConnectorCare cardholders free or steeply discounted admission to arts, humanities, and science organizations across the Commonwealth.
- We continued the Apprentice Singer program for high school Junior and Senior students and implemented a Collegiate Vocalist programs, both of which reduce the direct cost of singing with AVM for students.
- AVM reconfirmed its commitment to inviting non-vocalist Community Representatives to join the Executive Board.
- Raffle basket fundraising was successful enough to fund two generous Choral Scholar Awards for the Class of 2025.

FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE

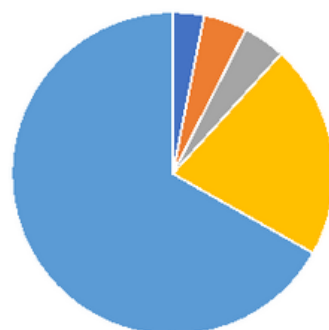


Revenue:

- **Fundraising:** \$40,135
- **Grants:** \$7,675
- **Membership/dues/music:** \$8,774
- **Program Revenue:** \$18,066
- **Other Revenue:** \$11,955

In the 2024-2025 season, AVM received financial support from community businesses, donors, seven Local Cultural Councils, and foundations. In addition, we utilized funds from our Endowment Fund, and a generous contribution from an anonymous donor towards our programming.

EXPENSES



Expenses:

- **Fundraising:** \$2,988
- **Admin/Membership:** \$4,192
- **Publicity:** \$4,063
- **Program:** \$20,581
- **Musician/Professional Fees:** \$64,075

Through prudent management and an extensive volunteer network, only 21% of AVM's budget is directed to program production. As a result, AVM has been able to invest in its operational infrastructure, marketing, and professional talent.

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Dear Assabet Valley Mastersingers Members and Supporters,

Thank you to all our vocalists, donors, and supporters for making this AVM's most successful concert season ever! The quality of our performances was exceptional—from the moving and exuberant “Opera Choruses,” to a polished and powerful rendition of Mendelssohn’s grand oratorio Elijah, a delightful and entertaining “Sing Into Spring” by the Chambersingers, and a compelling series of contemporary works addressing timely social issues. This was truly an extraordinary musical year for the Assabet Valley Mastersingers.

Our ensemble is comprised of over 60 vocalists who are more talented, more diverse, and more vibrant than ever before. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were able to feature professional soloists and orchestral accompaniment, enriching the depth of our performances. Behind the scenes, a dedicated team of volunteers provided vital support—donating professional services in graphic and web design and management, audio-visual recording, program layout, and more. Others contributed tirelessly to rehearsal and concert logistics, membership coordination, receptions, ticketing, and database management.

At the heart of AVM is our passionate family of vocalists whose dedication drives our mission forward.

I look forward to another exciting season ahead, featuring beloved choral classics alongside works that speak to the pressing issues of the current of our time. Thank you to all our donors, advertisers, volunteers, audience members, and singers for making it possible to bring so much beautiful music to our community.

Musically yours,

Robert P. Eaton, DMA
Artistic Director
Assabet Valley Mastersingers



Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

Barbara Black/Interboro Community Band
barbcre8s@gmail.com
617-784-6633
12 Hickory Road
Southborough MA 01772-1422
<https://sites.google.com/site/interboroband/Home>

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$300

Project Discipline

Music

Project Title

Spring Concert with a "Weather" theme

When will the project take place?

Sunday, March 29th, 7:00 PM

Where will the project take place?

Westboro High School, Westborough, MA

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

275

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

No

Project Overview

Summarize the proposed project or program.

The Interboro Community Band (ICB) is a volunteer ensemble that performs regularly in the Central Massachusetts area. We are a self-funding organization. We are applying for this grant to help cover some of the costs (music director honorarium and music purchases) for our spring concert at the Westborough High School. This annual event is designed to bring the greater Southborough community (of all ages) together to enjoy a casual, Friday evening concert of classical and contemporary music with this year's "Weather" theme.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

Music lovers of all ages from Southborough and the surrounding communities.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

No cost. Concert is free and open to the public.

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

For approximately thirty years, the Interboro Community Band has provided an opportunity for members of the local community to enjoy performances of a wide variety of concert band literature ranging from traditional classic symphonic band music to more contemporary and popular arrangements. It has also given local adult Southborough residents the opportunity to once again enjoy participating in band rehearsals and concerts—a welcome addition to their "working lives". Our current Treasurer is a long-time resident of Southborough and has played with the band for twelve years. Two of the members of the Trombone and one from the French Horn section are also Southborough residents. Many audience members are also from Southborough.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

The band's conductor and Music Director is Matt Lafebvre—previously Westboro High School Band Director and Assistant Principal at Westborough High School—now Principal at the Hopkinton, MA Middle School. In addition, Matt was the director of the Westborough Community Band. He has directed the Interboro Community Band since 2017. Members include approximately sixty-five adults and young, more advanced musicians who are able to perform at a high school proficiency level or higher. One member of the trombone section is over 90! A number of our musicians are music educators teaching in local school systems.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

As in past years, we will advertise the concert in local Social Media (i.e. Facebook, Southborough Community Care & Share, My Southborough Blog, etc.), newspapers and notices at Music retail locations (David French's Music and Music & Arts stores). Members who are music educators themselves will notify schools within their communities. We make a special effort to visit Senior Communities and the Southborough Senior Center to notify them through flyers and personal visits.

Budget**Project Budget**

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Supplies and Materials	Music Purchases	\$500.00
Other (please describe)	Honorarium for Music Director	\$1,000.00
		\$1,500.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

We will cover any concert costs not funded by the council through registration fees paid by band members as well as voluntary contributions from the audience at our refreshment table during the spring concert intermission.

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.**How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)**

We have sufficient funds in our treasury (from band members' registration fees) to cover any cost overruns.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

Application To:

Applicant Information

Applicant Organization Information

Review the applicant information.

****Legal Name:** Discovery Museum, Inc.****Doing Business As:******Physical Address:******Address 1:** 177 Main Street****Address 2:******City:** Acton****State:** MA****ZIP:** 01720-3616**Mailing Address (if different):****Mailing Address 1:****Mailing Address 2:****City:****State:****ZIP:**

****If you need to update one of these fields, you can submit a note through the system or [email grants.team@mass.gov](mailto:grants.team@mass.gov)**

If you would like to update your organization's mailing address, please update it in your Organization Profile. Here's how:

- Click Save Draft before navigating away from this page.
- Then click on Home in the upper right corner.
- Click on Organization Profile to update the fields, and then click on Save.
- This application will be in your "In Progress" section of your Home page so you can continue working.

Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

Liz Dorsey
edorsey@discoveryacton.org
978-264-4200

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$400

Project Discipline

Multidisciplinary

Project Title

Open Door Connections

When will the project take place?

2026

Where will the project take place?

Discovery Museum, Acton

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

400

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

Yes

Where does the project take place?

After/Out-of-School

Total Number of Youth Served

270

Project Overview

Summarize the proposed project or program.

Discovery Museum's Open Door Connections (ODC) programs provide a range of free and nearly free opportunities for families to explore the Museum and take part in a diverse array of indoor and outdoor STEAM programs. ODC includes \$1/person admission for EBT, WIC, and ConnectorCare cardholders; free admission for foster families, educators, and active-duty military families; free events held 25+ times a year for children with disabilities and their families; free admission for all on select Friday evenings; free memberships for first-time parents of infants; free special events; and memberships donated to families served by our social-service-organization partners. A quarter of the museum's annual audience participates for free or nearly free through these programs, including 315 Southborough residents over the last year.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

Open Door Connections targets families for whom the cost of museum admission is a barrier to access.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

Free or \$1/person

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

With their interactive and immersive learning experiences, children's museums spark imaginations, nurture creativity, and expand children's knowledge of science, art, nature, music, culture, and the world around them. Child-directed, playful exploration also builds children's confidence and helps them recognize their own capacity for one day becoming a scientist, artist, or anything they can envision for their futures. Because of these benefits and many others, Discovery Museum is committed to making its learning opportunities available to and inclusive of all children, especially those for whom cost would otherwise pose a barrier to access.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

Discovery Museum is recognized nationally for its expertise in early childhood learning and accessibility. Key staff include: Dr. Brindha Muniappan, Senior Director of the Museum Experience, who oversees exhibit and program content; the 60+ "Explorers" and program educators who interact with visitors; Ann Sgarzi, Director of Marketing, who ensures that local communities are aware of the ODC access programs and that funders are recognized; CEO Marie Beam, who guides the museum's strategic initiatives, including goals related to access; and Dr. Susan Heilman, the accessibility coordinator and Director of Community Partnerships.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

Discovery Museum partners with many organizations to develop programs that meet the needs of a diverse audience and to promote ODC to those who would benefit. The Museum collaborates with organizations serving specific constituencies, including people with disabilities, families experiencing homelessness, foster families, families with an LGBTQIA+ member, families impacted by incarceration, and many others. Educators, scientists, artists, and others serve as advisors for many of our programs.

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

We promote ODC and acknowledge funders on the Discovery Museum website, which has an average of 25,000 website hits monthly; to our 24,000 social media followers; and in e-mails to our distribution list of 85,500+ addresses. The Massachusetts Cultural Council also promotes the Museum's participation in ODC and supports our accessibility work.

Budget

Project Budget

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	museum educators and program staff	\$3,456.00
Supplies and Materials	For public programs	\$576.00
Other (please describe)	facilities costs	\$768.00
		\$4,800.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

The budget presented reflects the cost of providing free admission to the number of visitors the museum anticipates reaching during the grant period from Southborough. Discovery Museum funds Open Door Connections for all towns in the region through a combination of earned revenue (admission and school program fees), individual contributions, grants, and corporate donations.

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

Not applicable

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

Discovery Museum is committed to removing barriers to access and has pledged never to turn away visitors due to their inability to pay the cost of admission. The Museum commits to fully funding the need and will shift resources as needed.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

The Museum has not sought funds for this specific project but has applied to local councils to support ODC visitation from their respective communities.

Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Applicant Organization Information

Review the applicant information.

****Legal Name:** Hopkinton Center for the Arts

****Doing Business As:**

****Physical Address:**

****Address 1:** 98 Hayden Rowe Street

****Address 2:**

****City:** Hopkinton

****State:** MA

****ZIP:** 01748-2508

Mailing Address (if different):

Mailing Address 1:

Mailing Address 2:

City:

State:

ZIP:

****If you need to update one of these fields, you can submit a note through the system or [email grants.team@mass.gov](mailto:grants.team@mass.gov)**

If you would like to update your organization's mailing address, please update it in your Organization Profile. Here's how:

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- Then click on Home in the upper right corner.
- Click on Organization Profile to update the fields, and then click on Save.
- This application will be in your "In Progress" section of your Home page so you can continue working.

Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

Maureen Belger
maureen@hopartscenter.org
508-361-6077

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$500

Project Discipline

Music

Project Title

New Year's Eve Family Party at the HCA

When will the project take place?

12/31/25

Where will the project take place?

HCA, 98 Hayden Rowe Street, Hopkinton, MA 01748

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

300

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

Yes

Where does the project take place?

After/Out-of-School

Total Number of Youth Served

200

Project Overview

Summarize the proposed project or program.

Now in its 5th year, the New Year's Eve Family Party at the Hopkinton Center for the Arts has become a beloved community tradition. Held from 4–6 PM on December 31, this free event is perfect for families with young children who want to celebrate early. It began in 2020 as an outdoor, masked gathering and quickly proved the need for a joyful, family-friendly New Year's celebration. Each year since, the event has grown, offering one of the few local options for families to ring in the New Year together. The afternoon features a lively DJ, dancing, games, balloon artists, and face painting. Families can relax by the firepit, roast marshmallows, or watch a live ice sculptor (weather and funding permitting). The celebration ends with a spirited countdown and balloon drop or confetti blast. It's a fun, safe, and festive way to celebrate while building community and creating lasting memories.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

The target audience is families surrounding communities and several hundred people attended last year from all over the Metrowest and Central MA area. Children's ages range from a few months old to 13.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

The event is free.

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

This project yields high public benefit by offering no-cost, family-friendly arts and entertainment that unite community members in celebration that is accessible to all.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

Mike Pride is a professional DJ specializing in working with children's events. He selects music to engage the young crowd, plays games to music and gives away prizes. He reads the room, takes requests, and gets people up moving and interacting. He creates a festive environment for all and the anticipation builds as he leads the countdown to "midnight".

<https://www.djmikepride.com/>

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

We will be hiring 4 artists from Kaleidoscope Artistic Entertainment to provide professional face painting services and balloon art.

<https://www.kscopeart.com/>

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

HCA will promote the NYE Family Party through our facebook and instagram pages. We will also utilize our email distribution list of 10,000 users who have signed up for updates. And we will run 30 second ads with My FM radio.

Budget

Project Budget

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	DJ	\$350.00
Production/Technical Costs	Sound Tech	\$50.00
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Ice Sculptor	\$1,600.00
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Balloon Artists - \$400 x 2	\$800.00
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Face Painters - \$400 x 2	\$800.00
Marketing/Promotion		\$100.00
Space Rental	HCA facility use - \$75 x 2	\$150.00
Supplies and Materials	balloon drop/confetti	\$100.00
Salaries/Fees: Administrative	HCA event staff	\$64.00
		\$4,014.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

HCA is also pursuing corporate sponsors to contribute to the cost of this community cultural event. We anticipate some support from Middlesex Savings Bank.

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

N/A

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

If we are unable to secure all the funding we need for the event, we will not pursue the ice sculpture demo.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

We have also applied to Ashland, Holliston, and Milford for this event.

New Years' Eve Family Party at HCA

Images from previous years





Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

Michelle Liu
mimismile321@GMAIL.COM
443-562-0051
8 kallander dr
Southborough MA 01772

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$650

Project Discipline

Dance

Project Title

Dance and Health

When will the project take place?

Dec 2025 - Jun 2026

Where will the project take place?

Recreation Center, Senior Centers, Adult Day Centers, Schools, or community gardens/lawns

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

150

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

No

Project Overview**Summarize the proposed project or program.**

Research has long shown that cultural dance offers significant benefits for both physical and mental health (Olvera, 2013; Schroeder, 2017; Koch, 2019). Physically, it enhances cardiovascular health, muscles and bones, and improves balance and flexibility. Mentally, it reduces stress, boosts self-esteem, and supports cognitive functions. Despite these benefits, cultural dance remains underutilized. This project seeks to integrate dance into everyday health and wellness practices. The initiative will include forms:

1. Free Community Lessons – Open to all people at recreation centers or public community spaces.
2. Aging Gracefully – Teach elderly with safe, simple, and beneficial dance movements at senior centers or assisted living facilities.
3. Dance Therapy for school-aged children by introducing dance as a method of relaxation and emotional regulation.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

The project is open to all individuals at any age, gender, race/ethnicity, and disability status, or other characteristics. A special component will be seniors who often face increasing physical fragility and social isolation.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

There is no cost for attendees except their own transportation and time.

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

As outlined in the project overview, this project aims to enhance the health and well-being of community residents, designed to ensure equitable access for everyone to participate and benefit.

Cultural dance is a timeless legacy of beauty and expression. Southboro has also become a lot more diversified than ever before. In addition to its health benefits, this project can celebrate and share the richness of Asian folkloric dance—an important and growing part of Southborough’s cultural identity.

Importantly, this project will be youth-led. In doing so, it helps cultivate the next wave of artists in our community. It also empowers youth as emerging community leaders, with guidance and support from adult mentors.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

The project is led by Michelle Liu, a resident of Southboro and winner of national dance competitions (e.g., championships in duet categories and top soloist); group ensemble winning World Dance Championship and Top place at the Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) involvning 40+ countries.

She is the Head of External Affairs at the Angel Dance Youth League of the Angel Dance Company—a premier Chinese folkloric dance school in the Greater Boston area. She coordinated and participated in 30+ cultural events. Examples are Boston’s First Night (interviewed by CBS News), AAPI Heritage Month, TD Garden during a Celtics game, senior centers, etc.

She is a previous recipient of LCC grant and Gold Medalist of Presidential Volunteer Services.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

Angel Dance Youth League (ADYL) is a 503 non-profit organization. Joined Michelle will be her fellow dancers at (attendance confirmed) and other sister dance groups in other ethnic groups to boost the diversity of dance forms. The exact artist will be secured upon grant funding approval.

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

I will use a few dissemination channels:

1. Flyers distributed at library and public gathering spots
2. Mysouthborough.com and Social Media of Southboro town, Cultural Council, Rec Center, senior center, and other relevant groups
3. School Networks
5. Dance school social media
6. Word of Mouth

Initial agreements were secured from three senior homes. The Southborough Rec Center previously agreed to provide facilities.

Budget

Project Budget

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Instructor(s) for performance, event organization, and teaching time	\$500.00
Marketing/Promotion	Time to create marketing materials and communications with various community organizations	\$100.00
Equipment Purchase	Prop purchase	\$50.00
		\$650.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

There is no other projected income to support this project at this stage.

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

There will be volunteers to support the organization of the events. For example, they will host and seat an audience, take attendance contact info, etc.

Also, community organizations will allow me to use their facilities. They may also market the events/program to their audience/members.

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

I will donate some of my time to support the program if there is insufficient budget funded. I do hope to be fully funded. However, I will seek additional funding as needed.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

not applicable.

Select Pictures of Michelle's Dance Related Community Events

massasianrestaurantassociation
Giulio Cercato · Are You Ready

MASSACHUSETTS Asian Restaurant Association

ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP

2025 MARA ANNUAL GALA & ASIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Southborough Recreation

Posts About Photos Videos More

Southborough Recreation 3d · 🌐

On Wednesday, we had the incredible opportunity to host an Asian Folkloric Dance class! Participants explored dance movements using their bodies and props, practiced stretches, and learned about proper positioning. It was a beautiful experience celebrating culture through movement.

A huge thank you to Michelle Lui from Angel Dance Performing Arts for bringing this wonderful class to our community. Your passion and expertise made this a truly special event!

Home Video Friends Profile Notifications Menu

SALMON COMMUNITY CENTER Salmon at Westborough 2d · ⚙️

Angel Dance studio entertainment was a wonderful experience for Willows residents! So graceful and a true joy!

9

9



CBS NEWS

BOSTON | News Weather Sports Video WBZ Feed

LOCAL NEWS

"Wonderful atmosphere"; People gather for daytime New Year's Eve celebrations

By Paul Burton
December 31, 2023 / 10:15 PM EST / CBS Boston

WBZ NEWS



BOSTON - For those who were looking to take in the New Year before midnight, First Night festivities were underway early in Boston at City Hall.

LOCAL

Local men face watch scam charges

Brothers, partner allegedly sold counterfeit goods

Worcester, Mass. (CBS) — Three men allegedly ran several watch stores, Instagram pages and Facebook groups where they advertised and sold counterfeit watches they had imported from China. Federal authorities announced the charges in U.S. District Court in Hartford after a multi-year investigation.

Kevin Nolas was a Framingham State University police officer during a portion of the investigation. According to court papers, he was terminated from that position; university spokesman Stuart Maguire simply said Nolas is no longer with the department.

According to a federal affidavit, the three men allegedly ran several watch stores, Instagram pages and Facebook groups where they advertised and sold counterfeit watches they had imported from China. Federal authorities purchased several of the watches from each man's Instagram pages for \$200 to \$300 each, according to the affidavit.

Between April 2020 and July 2022, U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents seized 73 packages that were addressed to Nolas. They contained counterfeit Rolex, Audemars and Patek watches. According to federal authorities, the watches were sold, they would have been worth more than \$8 million.

Between July 2022 and April 2023, Customs agents seized and sold 12 packages addressed to the Nolas in Worcester. These packages already contained counterfeit Rolex and Audemars watches that, if authentic, would be worth more than \$3 million.

See WBZ10 NEWS, Page 6A.



Lakeside Apartments relocating

Overhaul to raise all 202 units in a total rebuild

Worcester, Mass. (CBS) — The Worcester Housing Authority is working with residents of Lakeside Apartments who will relocate during the planned redevelopment of the public housing complex.

A major overhaul is in the works with plans to raise all 202 units and rebuild with new units added to a total of around 300 units. The project will include a mix of affordable apartments and market-rate units in new four-story buildings and is expected to take anywhere from five to 10 years with funding coming from multiple local, state and federal sources.

The project team is waiting to learn whether it will receive state funding this year for the first two phases. While the timeline of work depends on securing the funding, a timeline kind of the development team is working with residents to ensure their needs are met during a temporary relocation.

No work would begin until all residents affected by the first two phases are relocated.

Alex Constant, CEO of the authority, said Friday that the team behind the redevelopment project applied for state funding for the first two phases of the first step project.

"You're only going for a decision from the state. We certainly have our fingers crossed that they select this project so we can begin the work," Constant said. "So this stage of the game we're kind of on standby in terms of

See LAKESIDE, Page 6A.

Leaping into spring



Members of the Worcester-based Angel Dance Company wait for their chance to perform at the Worcester Senior Center during Friday's Chinese Spring Festival, a multigenerational celebration of Chinese culture.



Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Applicant Organization Information

Review the applicant information.

****Legal Name:** Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild, Inc.

****Doing Business As:**

****Physical Address:**

****Address 1:** 39 Southpark Lane

****Address 2:**

****City:** Mansfield

****State:** MA

****ZIP:** 02048-1769

Mailing Address (if different):

Mailing Address 1: PO Box 705

Mailing Address 2:

City: Mansfield

State: Massachusetts

ZIP: 02048-0705

****If you need to update one of these fields, you can submit a note through the system or [email grants.team@mass.gov](mailto:grants.team@mass.gov)**

If you would like to update your organization's mailing address, please update it in your Organization Profile. Here's how:

- Click Save Draft before navigating away from this page.
- Then click on Home in the upper right corner.
- Click on Organization Profile to update the fields, and then click on Save.
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Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

Michael McGarty
michaelmcgarty@metg.org
978-870-4833

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$750

Project Discipline

Theatre

Project Title

The Massachusetts High School Drama Festival

When will the project take place?

Saturday, February 28 2026

Where will the project take place?

Algonquin Regional High School

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

1,000

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

Yes

Where does the project take place?

After/Out-of-School

Total Number of Youth Served

400

Project Overview

Summarize the proposed project or program.

The Massachusetts High School Drama Festival is one of the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild's largest events which annually draws an average of 120 participating schools. Algonquin Regional High School and Drama director, Brian Kelly have partnered with the METG to host one of the rounds of festival this year. At each round, eight regional schools including Algonquin will come together to perform one act plays for adjudication. Through participation in the festival, students with interests in acting, directing and technical theater gain valuable performance and production experience while also being opened to the work done by their peers in other towns. Students win awards for acting and technical excellence at the end of the day.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

Students, Teachers, Family and Friends

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

Student participants - FREE

Audience - \$15 for all 8 shows

Ticket price low to benefit all families

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

1. By including surrounding towns, the festival allows students, teachers, and audience members from different areas to share artistic styles, resources, and perspectives, enriching the overall cultural landscape.
2. It serves as a public showcase for young artists, providing high-quality, low-cost performances for community members who may not otherwise have access to live theater. This not only entertains but also cultivates a new generation of theatergoers.
3. The festival transforms the host location into a temporary cultural hub, drawing in visitors and fostering a sense of shared community engagement centered around the arts. This influx of activity benefits local businesses and highlights the arts as a core community value.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

Artistic and Technical Directors are all Massachusetts certified educators. This ensures that the directors possess the necessary expertise to provide a safe, and educationally sound event. Their background guarantees that the festival's activities align with best practices in arts education. The judging panel includes working theater professionals from the Boston entertainment industry. They bring real-world experience, artistic standards, and professional insight, ensuring that the performances are assessed against high industry benchmarks. The panel also features respected Theater academics from many Massachusetts' universities. These professors offer an understanding of dramatic literature, theatrical history, and critical analysis.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

The event is run in partnership with the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild, Inc., an almost 100-year-old organization which exists to promote and strengthen excellence, access and education in the theatrical arts for Middle and High School students and teachers across the Commonwealth.

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

The METG coordinates state-wide media coverage by contacting local and regional newspapers and arts websites to promote performances. Participating schools publicize the event with their interior mailings/bulletins. Also, METG's social media postings on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn highlight the event for 3 months before the actual festival.

Budget**Project Budget**

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Professional Theater Adjudicators & Program Supervisors	\$1,000.00
Salaries/fees: Contractors	Nurse, Custodians, Tech Directors	\$1,000.00
Production/Technical Costs	Spike tapes/lighting gels/playbill programs	\$600.00
Supplies and Materials	Hosting Supplies, Certificates and Award Trophies	\$500.00
		\$3,100.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

Ticket Sales \$1000
Membership Dues \$1000
Total: \$2000

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

School Facilities rental
computers/printers
basic office supplies
refreshments

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

In the event of less funding, the METG picks up the difference from its operating budget.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

Northborough \$750



Algonquin Regional High School

Dedicated to Excellence in Education

Kate Heusner, Chair
Town Hall
17 Common Street
Southborough, MA 01772-1662

Cc: Michael McGarty - METG

Dear Council Members:

Algonquin Regional High School is honored to be one of the 12 sites around the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to host a Preliminary round of the Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild's One-Act Festival on February 28th 2026. The festival will cover the hours of 7AM to 10 PM and include productions from both our school and seven surrounding towns. Algonquin Regional High School Theater has taken part in this event for decades and again has the opportunity to partner with the METG to help create the magic for many students in MetroWest.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me, Brian Kelly, with any questions at bkelly@nsboro.k12.ma.us. Please let me know if you need anything else. We'd truly appreciate any financial support that you'd be able to give us to host this event.

Warmest Regards,

Brian Kelly
Algonquin Regional High School Theater Program
bkelly@nsboro.k12.ma.us



The METG enjoys the support of



“

I believe arts education in music, theater, dance, and the visual arts is one of the most creative ways we have to find the gold that is buried just beneath the surface. They (children) have an enthusiasm for life **a spark of creativity, and vivid imaginations** that need training – training that prepares them to become confident young men and women.

”

– Richard W. Riley,
Former US Secretary of Education

Welcome to the METG

OUR MISSION:

The Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild, Inc. exists for the charitable and educational purpose of promoting and strengthening excellence, access, and education in the theatrical arts for middle and secondary school students and teachers. For more than 85 years, the METG has been a leader in arts education, believing that theater has a unique power to enrich and transform young people's lives.

As members of the METG, you and your students can participate in all the exciting activities planned for our upcoming season. And you'll be in good company! You will join enthusiastic students and directors from over 180 of the Commonwealth's public, independent, and parochial schools who annually take advantage of the Guild's special programs and events.

For more information, email the METG Coordinator at metg@metg.org or visit the Guild website: <http://metg.org>



“

To be with other kids **who shared the same passion** I had for being creative and taking risks was a revelation. I'm forever grateful for those Saturdays in random high schools bonding with other kids who knew who Sam Shepard was.

”

- Nate Corddry, Actor
The Daily Show, Harry's Law

State Drama Festivals

A DISTINGUISHED TRADITION

The Massachusetts State Drama Festivals, begun in 1931, are the Guild's largest events of the year. More than 165 member schools annually participate at various host sites across the Commonwealth.

Through participation in festival, students with interests in acting, directing, playwriting and technical theater gain valuable performance and production experience.

Schools perform one act plays under 40 minutes in length and performances are adjudicated by theater professionals who give important educational feedback to the directors and students.

Member schools can choose from both competitive and non-competitive festivals.

For more information about the available options and festival rules, please visit the website METG.ORG or email the Guild Coordinator at metg@metg.org.



Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Applicant Organization Information

Review the applicant information.

****Legal Name:** Messiah Community Chorus

****Doing Business As:**

****Physical Address:**

****Address 1:** 15 Common Street

****Address 2:**

****City:** Southborough

****State:** MA

****ZIP:** 01772-1691

Mailing Address (if different):

Mailing Address 1: PO BOX 281

Mailing Address 2:

City: Southborough

State: Massachusetts

ZIP: 01772-0281

****If you need to update one of these fields, you can submit a note through the system or [email grants.team@mass.gov](mailto:grants.team@mass.gov)**

If you would like to update your organization's mailing address, please update it in your Organization Profile. Here's how:

- Click Save Draft before navigating away from this page.
- Then click on Home in the upper right corner.
- Click on Organization Profile to update the fields, and then click on Save.
- This application will be in your "In Progress" section of your Home page so you can continue working.

Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

Matt Pietro
singhandel@gmail.com
508-380-3010

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$1,000

Project Discipline

Music

Project Title

Messiah Community Chorus presentation of Handel's Messiah

When will the project take place?

December 2026

Where will the project take place?

15 Common Street Southborough, MA

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

300

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

No

Project Overview

Summarize the proposed project or program.

The annual Handel's Messiah Concert has been presented by the Messiah Community Chorus each December for 50+ years now with the exception of 2020 & 2021 due to Covid-19. It has become a holiday tradition within the town attracting an audience of over 300 people from Southborough and surrounding towns. The chorus of approximately 40-50 is made up of volunteer vocalists from all over the greater Metrowest area. Other performers include a paid 20-piece orchestra and 4 paid soloists. The conductor this year will be Grace Choi. The concert is performed in the Pilgrim Church sanctuary followed by a reception in the Pilgrim Church Fellowship Hall.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

The target audience is anyone in the greater Metrowest area that enjoys this incredible classical work to ring in the holiday season. This year marks our 52nd performance.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

General admission is \$20.00, Senior / Students is \$15.00, and the maximum family rate is \$60.00.

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

The Messiah Community Chorus prides itself on presenting a concert on the level of professional performances typically heard in the concert halls of Boston. This concert presentation enriches the cultural well-being of those that attend as well as those that perform this masterwork and sustains an historic significance for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. With its presentation in the heart of Southborough, many can attend this rich musical experience within their local community.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

The chorus members are qualified singers who will attend weekly rehearsals under direction of Grace Choi for 5 weeks prior to the concert, practicing together for over 10 hours to perfect performance. The orchestra and soloists are paid professional musicians from the Metrowest area chosen for their musical talents and knowledge of the Messiah score. Many of the vocalists and paid musicians return to perform year after year.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

A committee is set-up each year to produce this event. It consists of a concert coordinator who has overall responsibility for producing the concert. The committee consists of a treasurer, publicity chairman and hired performers coordinator.

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

Promotion for this event is done over several platforms. Posting of flyers promoting the concert in multiple public venues around greater Metrowest is done by all of the vocalist in the performing group. Announcements are planned on social media platforms including our Facebook page, mysouthborough.com and local digital newspaper sources under their arts and entertainment sections.

Budget

Project Budget

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Soloists, Orchestra and Choral section leaders	\$6,160.00
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Director	\$2,100.00
Supplies and Materials	Printing materials and music score rental	\$295.00
Marketing/Promotion	Tickets, posters, concert programs and postage	\$900.00
Production/Technical Costs	Website hosting	\$335.00
Other (please describe)	Post concert reception	\$200.00
		\$9,990.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

Concert Corporate Sponsorship \$3000
 Program Advertisers \$2500
 Ticket Sales \$1800
 Additional Grants \$1500

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

We will withdraw money from the Sission Fund endowment which has been set up for this possible scenario. This fund was established as a "safety net" fund if we are ever in a situation where we cannot cover the expenses in our proposed budget.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

RING IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

WITH THE MESSIAH COMMUNITY CHORUS
PERFORMING SELECTIONS FROM

Handel's

MESSIAH

COME AND ENJOY THIS INSPIRATIONAL PERFORMANCE WITH
FULL ORCHESTRA AND SOLOISTS!

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 7, 2025 - 3:30 P.M.

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

15 COMMON STREET- SOUTHBOROUGH, MA 01772

TICKETS

GENERAL ADMISSION | \$20.00 EA

STUDENTS & SENIORS | \$15.00 EA

FAMILY MAX | \$60.00

Tickets are available at the door.

(CASH and CHECK only)

**A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS
FROM THIS CONCERT WILL BE
DONATED TO THE
SOUTHBOROUGH FOOD PANTRY,
HELPING LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED.**

PREFERRED RESERVED SEATING

\$35.00 EA. | 2 FOR \$60.00

*(Please email singhandel@gmail.com
for details.)*



the
MESSIAH
COMMUNITY CHORUS

THANK YOU TO OUR CONCERT SPONSORS

Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Applicant Organization Information

Review the applicant information.

****Legal Name:** MetroWest Tourism and Visitors Bureau, Inc.

****Doing Business As:** MetroWest Boston Visitors Bureau

****Physical Address:**

****Address 1:** 860 Worcester Rd

****Address 2:**

****City:** Framingham

****State:** MA

****ZIP:** 01702-5260

Mailing Address (if different):

Mailing Address 1: 31 Hayward St, Suite 2A-212

Mailing Address 2:

City: Franklin

State: Massachusetts

ZIP: 02038

****If you need to update one of these fields, you can submit a note through the system or [email grants.team@mass.gov](mailto:grants.team@mass.gov)**

If you would like to update your organization's mailing address, please update it in your Organization Profile. Here's how:

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- This application will be in your "In Progress" section of your Home page so you can continue working.

Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

Stacey David
sdavid@metrowestvisitors.org
508-434-4433

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$500

Project Discipline

Multidisciplinary

Project Title

World Cup Fan Zone

When will the project take place?

June 11 - July 19, 2026

Where will the project take place?

Framingham, Marlborough, Franklin

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

35,000

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

No

Project Overview

Summarize the proposed project or program.

A MetroWest World Cup Fan Zone will spend time in 3 communities next summer, including Marlborough, Franklin and Framingham, from June 11-July 19. The Fan Zone will include World Cup watch parties, food trucks, an arts & crafts fair, other soccer-related vendors, activities, and live music. The Fan Zone will attract not only MetroWest residents, but visitors coming for World Cup, bringing new people into the region and introducing visitors to all that we have to offer. We will be creating a Fan Zone Guide with the festival schedule and activities, and would like to translate it into at least two other languages: Brazilian Portuguese and Spanish, based on the residents of MetroWest. The guide will include nearby arts & cultural attractions as well and will be a free handout at the festival and online. The Visitors Bureau will also handle the Zone's ad campaign.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

Residents of MetroWest and visitors. We anticipate that a large number of attendees, particularly to the Marlborough Fan Zone, will be from Southborough, given its proximity. Total attendees: 35-50K for all 3 Fan Zones over 20 festival days.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

Free

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

A Fan Zone will encourage a vibrant sense of community by bringing the region together to celebrate World Cup. It will provide opportunities for residents to interact with international visitors, giving an appreciation for other cultures. By translating the guide into 2 languages, we are lowering barriers to non-English-speaking residents and making them and visitors feel welcome. The Fan Zone will give local bands an opportunity to perform, local artisans a chance to show handcrafted items, and local food vendors a place to showcase their cuisine. Visitors will leave with a great impression of MetroWest, encouraging return visits to explore more arts, culture, & history.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

We are working with the City of Framingham, Town of Natick, City of Marlborough, Town of Franklin, Marlborough Economic Development Corporation, Marlborough Regional Chamber of Commerce and the MetroWest Chamber of Commerce to create the Fan Zone, all of whom will be providing lists of bands and crafters who should be approached for involvement. The Visitors Bureau will be designing the Fan Zone Guide in-house with our graphic designer to cut costs, but will use a reputable translation firm to do the translation for us. We will also be handling all of the advertising campaign elements.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

There will be 3 locations for the Fan Zone. The City of Marlborough will host from June 11 - 23. The Town of Franklin will host from June 24 - July 6. There will be a joint Framingham/Natick Fan Zone from July 7 – 19. Each are involved with some of the high-level plans that apply to all 3 locations as well as the details of their own location. We also have an event logistics company that will help with event planning (two firms have quoted but a contract is not yet signed).

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

The Visitors Bureau will conduct a robust campaign with print, digital & social ads, banners and yard signs. If budget allows, Out-of-Home ads will be included (billboards, train station placards, etc). Our annual Visitors Guide will include info on the Fan Zones and QR codes linking to the digital Fan Zone Guides. Printed Fan Zone Guides will be available at community locations and each festival to encourage visits and visits to arts & cultural attractions in surrounding towns like Southborough

Budget

Project Budget

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Production/Technical Costs	Printing for 3 different Fan Zone Guides (10K - English, 4K - Portuguese, & 4K - Spanish)	\$10,700.00
Salaries/fees: Contractors	Translation	\$2,700.00
Marketing/Promotion	Print/digital ad campaign	\$25,000.00
Marketing/Promotion	Social media ad campaign	\$5,000.00
Marketing/Promotion	Banners and yard signs	\$5,000.00
Marketing/Promotion	Out of Home advertising	\$10,000.00
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Bands to perform	\$9,000.00
		\$67,400.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

The Visitors Bureau will be contributing \$25,000 from our annual budget to the print/digital ad campaign and the social media advertising. We will also be contributing staff time to create the fan zone guide (writing and graphic design).

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

We will reduce the number of pages in the guide (to reduce the printing & translation costs) and/or reduce the number we are printing. We will cut back on ads that we do not get grant funding to cover. We will reduce the number of bands performing.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

We will also be applying to the Framingham, Natick, Franklin and Marlborough Cultural Councils for other aspects of this project.

October 10, 2025

Marlborough Cultural Council
140 Main Street
Marlborough, MA 01752

Dear Chair Larson & the Marlborough Cultural Council,

It is with great excitement that we share with you our initial plans around the celebration of the FIFA World Cup celebrations that we are hopeful to host in our great City of Marlborough!

As a partner with the MetroWest Boston Visitors Bureau, City of Marlborough and Marlborough Regional Chamber of Commerce, we intend to host a Fan Zone at Kelleher Park from June 11-23, 2026. Over the course of these thirteen days, we will show the game being played at Gillette Stadium, as well as those we believe to be the most followed by the members of our community.

We know from our research that Fan Zones provide an opportunity to showcase the rich and diverse cultures of the communities they are being hosted in. We expect anywhere up to 1,500 attendees at each game showing, totaling an estimated 6,000+ total visitors to the site over the period of the Fan Zone.

We are eager to honor this unique opportunity in the city and look forward to celebrating alongside the many partners who will help accomplish this memorable occasion.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,



Meredith Harris

Executive Director

Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Applicant Organization Information

Review the applicant information.

****Legal Name:** Northborough Area Community Chorus, Inc.

****Doing Business As:**

****Physical Address:**

****Address 1:** 26 Fairlawn Cir

****Address 2:**

****City:** Shrewsbury

****State:** MA

****ZIP:** 01545-3709

Mailing Address (if different):

Mailing Address 1: PO Box 442

Mailing Address 2:

City: Shrewsbury

State: Massachusetts

ZIP: 01545

****If you need to update one of these fields, you can submit a note through the system or [email grants.team@mass.gov](mailto:grants.team@mass.gov)**

If you would like to update your organization's mailing address, please update it in your Organization Profile. Here's how:

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- Click on Organization Profile to update the fields, and then click on Save.
- This application will be in your "In Progress" section of your Home page so you can continue working.

Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

Kathy Horelik
treasurer@nacc.net
508-527-0187

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$1,000

Project Discipline

Music

Project Title

Spring 2026 Concert "A Patriotic Celebration"

When will the project take place?

"A Patriotic Celebration" on May 3, 2026

Where will the project take place?

Algonquin Regional High School

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

500

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

No

Project Overview

Summarize the proposed project or program.

In Spring 2026, the Northborough Area Community Chorus (NACC) will present A Patriotic Celebration at Algonquin Regional High School, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. This family-friendly program features diverse choral works, ensemble and solo performances, and American Sign Language interpretation with audience engagement. Music Includes of Northborough will also perform, highlighting inclusion and diversity. Affordable, ADA-accessible, and recorded for broadcast, the concert will serve Southborough residents with a meaningful, high-quality cultural experience.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

Southborough residents of all ages—families, seniors, youth, and people of all abilities. The concert is inclusive, accessible, and affordable, building community through shared music.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

\$5 admission; free tickets provided to Southborough senior centers.

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

A Patriotic Celebration enriches Southborough's cultural life with an inclusive, high-quality choral performance that commemorates a historic milestone while reflecting diversity, equity, and access. Affordable admission and free tickets for seniors remove financial barriers, while the ADA-accessible venue and ASL interpretation ensure broad participation. Residents who cannot attend in person can view the recorded concert via local cable and online platforms. This program promotes civic pride, celebrates cultural diversity, and strengthens community bonds through the joy of music.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

The Northborough Area Community Chorus (NACC), founded in 1972, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with over 50 years of experience presenting concerts that unite and uplift Central Massachusetts. Artistic Director David Rose, an accomplished pianist and conductor, holds degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music and New England Conservatory. Accompanist Mark Bartlett, a Northwestern graduate, is active in regional music associations. Music Includes, directed by award-winning artist Lori Diamond, creates inclusive performance opportunities with ASL and audience engagement, supported by accompanist Fred Abatelli.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

NACC partners with Music Includes of Northborough for inclusive programming. Algonquin Regional High School is the confirmed performance venue. Southborough's Senior Center and Library will help with outreach and promotion, ensuring direct benefit to town residents.

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

Promotion in Southborough will include flyers at town venues, notices in community papers, local cable, online calendars, and town-focused social media groups. Updates will appear on NACC and Music Includes websites, ensuring wide community access.

Budget

Project Budget

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Artistic Directors, Accompanist	\$5,850.00
Salaries/Fees: Administrative	Operations Director	\$3,000.00
Salaries/fees: Contractors	Accounting fees	\$1,200.00
Production/Technical Costs	Front of the house, Technical support, Decorations and attire	\$2,200.00
Space Rental	Rehearsals & Concert rental space, Storage Space	\$3,400.00
Travel/Transportation	Truck Rental	\$150.00
Supplies and Materials	Printing Expenses, Office supplies and materials	\$3,200.00
Marketing/Promotion	Promotional Material, Website	\$800.00
Other (please describe)	Insurance, operational fees	\$1,700.00
		\$21,500.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

Alongside this Southborough Cultural Arts Council request, income will come from dues, ticket sales, ads, sponsorships, donations, and fundraising. If only partial funding is awarded, expenses will be reduced and supplemented by NACC contributions to ensure completion.

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

None

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

NACC will reduce production costs, seek added donations, modestly adjust dues or ticket prices, and expand fundraising to keep the program accessible and inclusive.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

In addition to Southborough, we will apply to the Local Cultural Councils of Auburn, Northborough, Marlborough, Shrewsbury, Berlin, Boylston, and Westborough to support our 2026 programs.

https://www.communityadvocate.com/news/we-just-started-singing-together-music-includes-of-northborough-promotes-inclusivity/article_5b813831-866b-4c41-8978-ea0c67b412f4.html

‘We just started singing together’: Music Includes of Northborough promotes inclusivity

Shealagh Sullivan

Aug 4, 2025



NORTHBOROUGH – For mother-daughter duo Lori Diamond and Anelise Diamond Merrihew, music is about much more than hitting the right notes.

The pair founded Music Includes of Northborough to promote inclusivity and joy within music. Almost 10 years in, their mission has only just begun.

Music Includes first started as the Unified Singing Club at Algonquin Regional High School in 2016. Merrihew was a student at Algonquin at the time and has “developmental differences,” said Diamond. Merrihew is on the autism spectrum and has loved music her whole life

So when she arrived at Algonquin and found its music extracurriculars all required an audition, Merrihew was inspired to create a different kind of space for music. It took time, Diamond said, but with the help of Felecia Rutigliano, a special education teacher at Algonquin, the Unified Singing Club began creating music with the mission of inclusivity.

“We instantly had lots of interest with students who were in the special ed program, but also students who were mainstream, and we just started singing together,” Diamond said.

Some students sang, others joined in with instruments, but no matter the type of music, Diamond said the joy was “palpable” when they performed.

The club expanded over the years, performing at school events around the area. Diamond said she noticed students who had graduated still wanted a space to express themselves musically.

In 2023, the club became Music Includes of Northborough, a space for community members across the region to come together and create music, regardless of age. Since then, the group has nearly tripled in size and now has people ages 7 to 70 participating.

“It has been just profoundly exciting to be able to offer something that brings so many people joy, and [shows] that age really means nothing when you’re creating music together,” Diamond said.

Music Includes performed at Northborough’s first official Porchfest on June 15 and will perform at Applefest in September. But according to Diamond, sharing their music isn’t anything new.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, Music Includes gathered remotely to sing. Diamond and Merrihew also shared “quarantine sessions” on YouTube with Diamond’s partner Fred Abatelli, which quickly went viral.

Whether it was a video, a school performance, or a local concert, to Diamond and Merrihew, Music Includes quickly became a space to not only create music, but to spread the joy of diversity and inclusion within it.

“I feel like our whole family feels like it’s a calling that we really are meant to answer, and in a big way, we really feel a responsibility, more than ever, to really spread awareness that inclusion matters and that everybody’s voice matters,” Diamond said.

In 2024, Music Includes became a subset of the Northborough Area Community Chorus, a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Diamond said the group intends to keep gathering through “Social Singing Sessions,” which are open to the public. They will also perform at the New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill on Aug. 21.

“I think there’s still a long way to go with the inclusive mindset and ableist attitudes, but we feel like we’re really breaking false paradigms about who is valuable and whether or not bringing joy is as valuable as precision,” Diamond said.

Shealagh Sullivan

Reporter

Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

Mouli Pal
mouli_pal@hotmail.com
978-304-7377
1 Harvard Avenue
Wilmington MA 01887-2016
<https://www.mouliodissi.com/>

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$250

Project Discipline

Dance

Project Title

SpringFest 2026

When will the project take place?

Sunday May 10th 2026

Where will the project take place?

Hopkinton Center For Arts

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

150

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

No

Project Overview**Summarize the proposed project or program.**

Upasana is a 501 C 3 organization bringing together families and individuals in the community through the grace and depth of Indian classical dance. Each Spring we present a spectacular concert highlighting refreshing dance pieces that cheers up and enriches the mind after a long New England Winter. This will be our third year at the Hopkinton Center for the Arts where we meet each Sunday. The performers are primarily local residents being guided by Mouli Pal an Odissi dance exponent. The traditional and innovative dance pieces connect us with the nature around us through delicate but powerful dance movements and storytelling.

Support for this program will enhance our promotion effort and also reduce the ticket price from \$20 to \$15. This will help reduce the financial burden on our audience during these times of hardship and make this enriching concert accessible to the wider community.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

This concert will appeal to seniors and individuals interested in world cultures and nature lovers. It is also appropriate for children and families as many of our performers are elementary school students.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

Ticket price \$15, children under 5 are free, and 5 to 10 year attendees pay \$10

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

The dance concert weaves stories of love and devotion and transports the audience to the mystical land India. We also create contemporary pieces about the world around us. Hand gestures and facial expressions are used by dancers dressed in vibrant attire. Such an experience uplifts and enriches the mind of the audience which is much needed in such times. Since majority of the performers are local residents, this event gives them the opportunity to showcase their talent and hard work to their friends, teachers and neighbors in the community in a formal production. This event is open to all regardless of their background and we ensure it is convenient for individuals of all abilities.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

This concert will be held under the guidance and leadership of Mouli Pal.

Mouli is a performer, teacher, choreographer and cultural ambassador sharing her passion for Odissi with communities, institutions and cultural organizations.

She is passionate to bring her art form to places it may otherwise not reach. She regularly offers lecture demonstrations at schools and universities and also reaches out to senior centers and community centers and libraries.

Mouli is regularly featured by prestigious presenters across the United States, India and Austria and recently in Greece. She promotes the dance as a "Way of life, for a balanced and mindful lifestyle" and mentors budding Odissi dancers of diverse age groups.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

Hopkinton Center for Arts is our venue partner and we have received written confirmation about the venue availability.

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

In order to adequately promote the event we plan to list event in local newspaper, create a flyer and share in local social media groups, and most importantly word of mouth of the local families who invite the teachers, friends and neighbors. Our past two events have been very well attended as we have about 15 performers based in the neighboring areas.

Budget**Project Budget**

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Space Rental	Hopkinton Center for Arts	\$720.00
Salaries/Fees: Administrative	Artistic Director Fee	\$450.00
Supplies and Materials	Costume and Stage decor	\$250.00
Marketing/Promotion	Media ads and Social media boosts	\$200.00
Communications	Admin fee for Office Manager	\$250.00
		\$1,870.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

Our only source of income is ticket sales, we do not have any other sponsorship for this program. The venue seats about 80 audience and tickets are priced at \$15, so we expect around \$1200 from ticket sales.

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

None

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

Upasana has created an "Emergency Fund" and we will request the Board to help us by releasing the funds. The Directors fee will not be paid if we are not funded. However there will be no change to the concert in any manner.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

Hopkinton Cultural Council, Ashland Cultural Council



SpringFest 2025

HOPKINTON

A vibrant Odissi concert celebrating the new season

Date: SUNDAY, March 23, 2025

Time: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Doors open at 3:30

Place: Hopkinton Center for the Arts
98 Hayden Rowe Street
Hopkinton, MA

Celebrate
Spring

Indian
Classical
Dance



**NO
CASH
SALES**

Tickets \$20 through Zeffy

**NO
CASH
SALES**

Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

Juliana Perez
Juliana.music.law@gmail.com
857-498-4697
66 Oak Hill Rd
Southborough MA 01745-1015

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$3,500

Project Discipline

Music

Project Title

The History of Southborough in Music

When will the project take place?

2026/2027 in readiness of Southborough Tricentennial

Where will the project take place?

It could be Southborough Historical Society, Southborough Library, or any other building/venue in Southborough

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

200

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

Yes

Where does the project take place?

After/Out-of-School

Total Number of Youth Served

200

Project Overview

Summarize the proposed project or program.

Gather the historical events that helped shape the Town, research the Music of Southborough and the surrounding areas (hymns, marches, and works), and share it with the youth, the elderly, in concert, showcase, and display.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

Everyone in town

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

Tier suggested donation fee

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

Will do a musicology work for the City of Southborough

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

My name is Juliana, I am a professional flautist and an attorney who is interested in finding the sound in music of the last 300 years of Southborough.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

I would like to invite the community to collaborate

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

Will reach out to the main actors of the town, including the Public Library and areas of gathering.

Budget

Project Budget

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Musicians	\$2,000.00
Production/Technical Costs	Production and Tech	\$1,000.00
Other (please describe)	Marketing and additional costs	\$500.00
		\$3,500.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

Donations are welcome

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

Hope for the best, and plan for other outcomes by reaching out to the Town and any other suggested organization for the project

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Applicant Organization Information

Review the applicant information.

****Legal Name:** Southborough Library

****Doing Business As:**

****Physical Address:**

****Address 1:** 25 Main Street

****Address 2:**

****City:** Southborough

****State:** MA

****ZIP:** 01772-1529

Mailing Address (if different):

Mailing Address 1:

Mailing Address 2:

City:

State:

ZIP:

****If you need to update one of these fields, you can submit a note through the system or [email grants.team@mass.gov](mailto:grants.team@mass.gov)**

If you would like to update your organization's mailing address, please update it in your Organization Profile. Here's how:

- Click Save Draft before navigating away from this page.
- Then click on Home in the upper right corner.
- Click on Organization Profile to update the fields, and then click on Save.
- This application will be in your "In Progress" section of your Home page so you can continue working.

Primary Contact

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Ryan Donovan
rdonovan@cwmmars.org
508-485-5031
25 Main St Southborough
Southborough MA 01772-1529

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$350

Project Discipline

Visual Arts

Project Title

Soul Speake Alchemy Box

When will the project take place?

Spring/Summer 2026

Where will the project take place?

Southborough Library

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project.

40

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

No

Project Overview**Summarize the proposed project or program.**

A unique soulful, meditative art program that transforms an 8 x 8 craft box into your own 3-D Alchemy Box. We will decorate the inside (our innermost desires and goals) as well as the outside (our outside persona). A wide variety of mixed media and colorful wrapping papers are provided as well as fun paper punches, ribbon, full color inspirational text and imagery. We will have a journaling exercise which will be sealed/placed inside. Each artist will receive a piece of rose quartz for their box as a symbol of self-acceptance. Let your inner child come out to play and take time to listen to your soul speaking. Meditative music and herbal teas will help set the inspiring tone. We previously held a version of this program in August 2022 where it was very well attended with over 30 participants. People have requested over the last few years to bring it back as an event.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

Teenagers and Adults. The program will be for Ages 12 & Up.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

There is no cost for attendees to participate.

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

This workshop is designed to give participants the ability to use hands-on skills to develop crafting techniques. This helps to fuel both knowledge and creativity, which are key components in the cultural vitality of a community. Programs help to attract new audiences to the library who may not come in regularly for core services, such as checking out books and other materials. This program also helps to fulfill the library's mission as a key cultural center in the Town of Southborough. While many craft programs are restricted to youth participants only, this is a unique one where adults and teenagers could do it together or a parent or parents could actively participate with their older child if they wanted to.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

Kim Larkin has been teaching creative workshops for over 20 years and her passion is sharing her experiences with others. She has developed a wide variety of creative programs that provide multi-sensory stimulation for both the mind and palette. Kim has turned her passion for teaching into fun, educational workshops that are offered in-person. She is a licensed commercial Chocolatier and a NAHA (National Association of Holistic Aromatherapy) Certified Aromatherapist. Kim is also certified by the Specialty Coffee Assoc. in Coffee Foundations and is a lifelong Tea Aficionado. She believes healing teas and coffee are truly "aromatherapy in a cup"! Kim is a practicing Usui Reiki Master and Spiritual Ceremonies Justice of the Peace.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

Library Staff - the Assistant Library Director Kim Ivers will help me to plan and promote the program. Youth Services Librarian Marianna Sorensen will also assist the day of the program, as well as answer patron questions leading up to it. Library Page Caitlin and possibly Jackson will assist with setting up for the program inside the library. It will most likely take place on a Saturday.

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

Program flyer will be created by library staff; advertising at the Town House and on the library's outside exterior board; flyers posted inside the library, online at the library's website, a Facebook event post, multiple Facebook "reminder" posts, the library's e-newsletter via Constant Contact, and "tweets" on Twitter/X.com helping to promote the programs. Marianna can also promote this on Instagram as well. We also try to advertise at the post office and at Starbucks as time allows.

Budget**Project Budget**

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Base fee for the presenter including all craft materials.	\$300.00
Travel/Transportation	Mileage from Cheshire, CT.	\$50.00
		\$350.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

N/A. This amount would cover the entire cost of the program.

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

N/A.

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

If the SCAC cannot fund this programs, then the library will most likely not be able to hold it. If the SCAC can only partially fund the program, then I will request that The Friends of the Southborough Library help with the remaining amount.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

N/A, we have not applied and will not apply to other LCCs for this program.



CRYSTAL ALCHEMY BOX

for Ages 12+

A Klasic Kreation's workshop
with Kim Larkin

Date & Time
TBD
2026

Main Floor,
Library

A unique soulful, meditative art program that transforms an 8 x 8 kraft box into your own 3-D Alchemy Box. We will decorate the inside (our innermost desires and goals) as well as the outside (our outside persona). A wide variety of mixed media and colorful wrapping papers are provided as well as fun paper punches, ribbon, full color inspirational text and imagery. We will have a journaling exercise which will be sealed/placed inside. Each artist will receive a piece of rose quartz for their box as a symbol of self-love. Let your inner child come out to play and take time to listen to your soul speaking. Meditative music and herbal teas will help set the inspiring tone.

Please pre-register:
bit.ly/sbllibnewevents



Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Applicant Organization Information

Review the applicant information.

****Legal Name:** Southborough Public Schools

****Doing Business As:**

****Physical Address:**

****Address 1:** 53 Parkerville Road

****Address 2:**

****City:** Southborough

****State:** MA

****ZIP:** 01772-1598

Mailing Address (if different):

Mailing Address 1:

Mailing Address 2:

City:

State:

ZIP:

****If you need to update one of these fields, you can submit a note through the system or [email grants.team@mass.gov](mailto:grants.team@mass.gov)**

If you would like to update your organization's mailing address, please update it in your Organization Profile. Here's how:

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- Click on Organization Profile to update the fields, and then click on Save.
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Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

Maggi Ibrahim
mibrahim@nsboro.k12.ma.us
508-331-3062

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$1,000

Project Discipline

Interdisciplinary

Project Title

Storybridge

When will the project take place?

February 26, 2026

Where will the project take place?

Algonquin Regional High School

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

250

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

Yes**Where does the project take place?**

In-School**Total Number of Youth Served**

100

Project Overview

Summarize the proposed project or program.

Storybridge is a storytelling initiative that brings together Southborough residents of all ages and backgrounds to share personal narratives in a guided, creative process. Through workshops and public presentations, participants reflect on meaningful life experiences, practice shaping their stories, and share them in supportive community settings. The program creates space for diverse voices, including youth, elders, and immigrant families, to be heard and valued. By weaving together these lived experiences, Storybridge strengthens empathy, belonging, and understanding across cultural and generational lines. In Southborough, Storybridge will serve as both an arts experience and a community-building program. It amplifies access to the arts by centering storytelling as a powerful cultural practice, while also fostering inclusive connections that reflect the richness of our town.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

Residents of Southborough and Northborough, including families, youth, immigrant and multilingual households, adults, and elders, with a focus on fostering intergenerational and cross-cultural connections.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

none

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

Storybridge strengthens the cultural vitality of Southborough and Northborough by creating inclusive spaces where community members of all ages and backgrounds share personal stories. Through workshops and public presentations, the program amplifies diverse voices, advances equity and access, and fosters empathy across cultures and generations. By centering storytelling as an accessible art form, Storybridge not only celebrates individual experiences but also builds a stronger, more connected community.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

Storybridge will be led by Jennifer De León, an award-winning author, educator, and nationally recognized speaker whose work centers on identity, culture, and belonging. She has taught creative writing and literature at multiple universities, facilitated workshops in schools and community organizations, and is the editor of *Wise Latinas: Writers on Higher Education*. Her proven expertise in guiding participants to shape and share their stories ensures that the program's cultural component is both artistically meaningful and accessible. Collaborating with local educators and community leaders will further ground the project in Southborough and Northborough.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

The project will be co-led by Jennifer De León and Adam Stumacher, both award-winning authors with extensive experience in storytelling and community engagement. The Northborough-Southborough Public Schools' Community Coalition and the Director of Belonging and Community Engagement are confirmed partners, ensuring strong local involvement and alignment with district initiatives.

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

The project will be promoted through the Northborough-Southborough Public Schools' communication channels, including newsletters, ParentSquare, and school websites, as well as through the Community Coalition network, local libraries, and partner organizations. Social media, word-of-mouth, and community events will further ensure broad awareness and participation across both towns.

Budget**Project Budget**

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Consultant costs for workshops	\$12,000.00
		\$12,000.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

In addition to the funding requested from the Southborough Cultural Council, we will also apply for support from the Northborough Cultural Council. The Northborough-Southborough Public Schools will contribute in-kind support through staff time and space. Families may also provide food for performers and participants, which will help offset some event costs.

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

The Northborough-Southborough Public Schools will provide in-kind support through staff time, use of school facilities, and communication channels to promote the program. In addition, families may donate food for performers and participants, helping to create a welcoming and community-centered atmosphere at events.

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

If full funding is not received, we will reduce the number of workshops or scale back presentations while keeping the core experience intact. We will also seek support from the Northborough Cultural Council and other grants.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

We will also be applying to the Northborough Cultural Council.



A NIGHT OF STORIES

AT THE NSBORO

STORY BRIDGE

SHOWCASE

You're invited to a night of inspiring,
personal, heartfelt storytelling by
your NSBORO neighbors on

MARCH 27 at 6:00 PM

Algonquin High School
Black Box Theater

RSVP for this free neighborhood event
<https://bit.ly/StoryBridgeShowcase2025>



RSVP



Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

Kris Swanson
ksjv@strattonwoods.com
508-243-7841
32 Desimone Drive
Marlborough MA 01752-5107
www.highlandwoodsproject.com

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$225

Project Discipline

Music

Project Title

Songs & Stories Music Concert

When will the project take place?

At a time determined to be convenient by the senior center.

Where will the project take place?

At the Southborough Senior Center.

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

40

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

No

Project Overview**Summarize the proposed project or program.**

Our trio, The Highland Woods Project, often plays concerts at assisted living centers, senior centers and local libraries who have funding to support entertainment such as ours. With all these organizations struggling with funding constraints these days I know they would appreciate hosting one of our concerts but they may not be able to afford it. This grant would allow us to entertain at the Senior Center with no cost to them. (Please see a letter of recommendation from the current Programs Director attached in "Additional Materials.")

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

Those senior citizens in Southborough who enjoy enriching programs sponsored by the senior center.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

None

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

Live music can benefit the mental health of residents and seniors as well as providing a social event for them to enjoy. Music can bring people together uniting them by a shared love of music, even overcoming some of the deep divisions our country is experiencing these days.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

The three members of our trio are now retired but were long term employees in engineering and management at Bose Corporation. Since retirement we have been playing concerts for many groups, but primarily with a goal of giving back to local communities.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

Just the three members of our trio.

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

Primarily through advertising in the Senior Center newsletter as well as our Facebook and Instagram pages and private email lists.

Budget

Briefly tell us how your organization is primarily concerned with the arts, humanities or sciences.

Our Trio is dedicated to bringing our joy of music to residents of our neighboring communities.

Project Budget

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Concert by the Highland Woods Project	\$225.00
		\$225.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

None

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

None

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

We would abandon the project as we feel this is a very nominal charge for our time and effort.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

N/A



"THE HIGHLAND WOODS PROJECT" features three former Bose Corporation employees and local musicians, Ed Aucoin (guitar/vocals), Paul Fidlin (guitar/vocals), and Kris Swanson (bass/vocals). They are an acoustic trio harmonizing songs, mainly from the 60's and 70's, that everyone knows and loves. As part of their Songs and Stories concerts they love to perform their favorite songs in rich three-part vocal harmonies. Some of the artists they cover include Crosby, Stills and Nash, The Everly Brothers, Simon and Garfunkel, John Denver, The Beatles, Kenny Loggins, America and The Eagles. The trio enjoy audience engagement, and sing-a-longs are strongly encouraged!

TOWN OF SOUTHBOROUGH



Senior Center

9 Cordaville Rd. SOUTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 01772
Phone (508) – 229-4453 fax (508) – 229-1783

September 24, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of recommendation for The Highland Woods Project, a wonderful acoustic trio whose music, professionalism, and community spirit have left many smiles on the faces of members of our Senior Center and beyond. Their selection of songs, mainly from the 60's and 70's, along with their beautiful harmonies, provides an enjoyable trip down memory lane for our members.

As the program manager of the Southborough Senior Center, it was a pleasure to work with them to enrich our programing. Having had the privilege of observing and benefiting from the trio's gift of music to our community I urge the committee to give their cultural grant application the highest consideration, as their future performance promises to continue to enrich our community.

Should you require any further information or wish to discuss the trio's impact in greater detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Laura West
Program Manager

Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Applicant Organization Information

Review the applicant information.

****Legal Name:** The Rock Institute

****Doing Business As:**

****Physical Address:**

****Address 1:** 41 Boston Post Road E

****Address 2:**

****City:** Marlborough

****State:** MA

****ZIP:** 01752-3501

Mailing Address (if different):

Mailing Address 1:

Mailing Address 2:

City:

State:

ZIP:

****If you need to update one of these fields, you can submit a note through the system or [email grants.team@mass.gov](mailto:grants.team@mass.gov)**

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Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

Joseph Giglio
onstage@onstagemusic.org
508-648-6162

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$500

Project Discipline

Music

Project Title

Concerts are for Everyone

When will the project take place?

June

Where will the project take place?

SouthBorough

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

350

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

No

Project Overview

Summarize the proposed project or program.

The Rock Institute provides free family friendly musical acts, Events and musical support for Events in Marlborough. We are looking for some additional budget to allow us to bring the music to Southborough. In Just the last year we have put on 3 concerts at the Marlborough union commons, Provided bands for the Junior Women's club family day, the Marlborough Labor day festival, the Labor Day Parade. We also provided equipment and hosted a Karaoke fundraiser for the Richer School PTA, as well as other events.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

We are looking to provide free family-friendly entertainment for Southborough events.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

All our events are free.

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

The Rock Institute provides free family friendly musical acts, Events and musical support for Events in Marlborough. We have a Diverse group of performers playing everything from Classical to Rock to funk to R&B.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

TRI has an Incredible staff with real performance and technical expertise. The staff has worked on some of the highest profile shows in the industry.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

N/A

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

TRI Promotes through our Social Media & Private mailing lists. We have cultivated many Local business partners who help promote.

TRI also has a close relationships with the Marlborough recreation department, the Marlborough MEDA, and WMCT TV.

Budget

Project Budget

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists		\$800.00
		\$800.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

The Rock Institute has regular fundraising events as well as private donors.

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

N/A

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

The Rock Institute does its own fundraising and can adjust the number of events we put on based on budget.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

N/A

Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

Roger L. Tincknell
roger@rogerstincknell.com
413-259-1146
78 Pratt Corner Road
Shutesbury MA 01072-9718
rogerstincknell.com

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$570

Project Discipline

Music

Project Title

Pete Seeger to Peter, Paul, and Mary

When will the project take place?

Summer, 2026

Where will the project take place?

Southborough Senior Center

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

100

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

No

Project Overview**Summarize the proposed project or program.**

Roger Tincknell will present a 1-hour music program entitled, From Pete Seeger to Peter Paul and Mary performed on guitar, banjo, mandolin, and harmonica. The program will include songs from the American folk music revival of the 1940's - 1960's. Songs styles ranging from traditional ballads to 1960s topical songs will be included along with a variety of well-known folk sing-alongs. Songs by well known folksingers such as Burl Ives, Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie, The Kingston Trio, Judy Collins, Odetta, Dave Van Ronk, Bob Dylan, Peter Paul and Mary, Harry Belafonte, Joan Baez and many others will be included. The artist will invite the audience to sing, clap, and play Latin percussion instruments. The artist will provide song lyrics and a high-quality sound system.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

The target audience is Southborough area seniors. The program is open to all community members.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

None

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

In addition to hearing familiar songs and musical styles performed on a variety of instruments, the audience will experience a sense of community that comes from singing, dancing, clapping, playing percussion instruments, and simply enjoying music together. Many of the songs presented in the concert will bring back fond memories for many seniors. The program will also provide a valuable opportunity for folks with limited social opportunities to spend time together enjoying an interactive, entertaining and educational cultural experience.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

Roger Tincknell is a professional singer, yodeler, and multi-instrumentalist with over 50 years of experience teaching and performing in MA schools, senior centers, and other community organizations. Roger is a two-time Parents' Choice Award-winning performer and recording artist. His songs and stories are augmented by his singing, yodeling, and playing of many musical instruments including guitar, banjo, mandolin, piano, ukulele, harmonica, and a wide variety of international folk instruments. Roger Tincknell is a Massachusetts certified and experienced classroom teacher and music specialist. His website, rogertincknell.com, provides additional bio information including performance references, reviews, recordings, teaching, and education.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

Peg Leonard, Director of the Southborough Senior Center Council on Aging (COA), has made a firm commitment to working with the artist to assure the success of the project. A letter of support from Ms. Leonard is included in the Additional Materials section of this application.

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

The project will be promoted by the artist, the COA staff and volunteers, via press releases and photographs supplied by the artist which will be submitted to local and regional media outlets. These may include newspapers, newsletters, radio, and local community access TV. The artist, in conjunction with the COA staff, will create flyers to be posted and distributed within the community. Also, the program will be featured on the artist's and the COA's websites.

Budget**Project Budget**

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Artist Fee	\$500.00
Travel/Transportation	Artist Travel	\$70.00
		\$570.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

If this grant is fully funded, no other source of cash income is needed to complete this project. However, in the event of partial funding the COA may, if the programming budget allows, contribute towards the artist fee. Please see language related to possible partial funding and in-kind donation by the artist through his sliding scale fee structure mentioned in the answers to the questions below.

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

The artist is providing an in-kind donation of approximately \$200 which includes promotion, marketing, and providing a high quality sound system. Staff time, publicity, and other overhead expenses are being provided by the COA at an estimated cost of \$150-\$250.

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

In the event of partial funding the event may still occur, either with a reduced fee by the artist or with some financial support from the COA providing that the total amount is within the artist's sliding scale fee of \$450-\$500.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

None

TOWN OF SOUTHBOROUGH



Senior Center

9 Cordaville Rd. SOUTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS 01772
Phone (508) – 229-4453 fax (508) – 229-1783

October 9, 2025

Dear Southborough Cultural Arts Council Members,

I am writing in support of a FY26 LCC Grant being submitted by Roger Tincknell to perform his "Pete Seeger to Peter, Paul and Mary" program. This program includes topical and traditional songs from the memorable 60s folk song revival. Along with this wonderful show, Roger will provide song lyrics which our members will absolutely love. One of the most awarding programs I have witnessed here at the Southborough Senior Center are sing-a-long musicals. I see the world lift off their shoulders as they engage in singing along with the performer and attendees, spend time together and experience the music in more ways than just listening.

Funding for this musical program will give our members a wonderful Cultural experience they will remember for many days ahead.

I would greatly appreciate receiving this program funding through the Southborough Cultural Arts Council.

With Much Appreciation,

Peg Leonard
Director
Southborough Senior Center

Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Applicant Organization Information

Review the applicant information.

****Legal Name:** Town of Southborough

****Doing Business As:**

****Physical Address:**

****Address 1:** Town Hall

****Address 2:** 17 Common Street

****City:** Southborough

****State:** MA

****ZIP:** 01772-1662

Mailing Address (if different):

Mailing Address 1:

Mailing Address 2:

City:

State:

ZIP:

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Primary Contact

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Sarah Cassell
scassell@southboroughma.com
774-249-1485

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$500

Project Discipline

Crafts

Project Title

Building Community Through Art

When will the project take place?

Over the course of several meetings between January 2026-June 2026

Where will the project take place?

Colonial Gardens- Southborough Housing Authority

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

100

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

No

Project Overview

Summarize the proposed project or program.

This project will bring a series of hands-on arts and craft workshops to residents of Colonial Gardens, Southborough's Housing Authority property for low-income seniors and adults with disabilities. The workshops will offer participants opportunities to engage in creative expression through a variety of accessible and inclusive craft activities such as painting, collage, and seasonal crafts. No previous experience will be required for any of the craft projects. The sessions are designed to promote social connection, reduce feelings of isolation, and build a sense of community among residents. The funding will support the purchase of art and craft supplies, allowing participants to create and take home their projects at no cost or display their projects in the community space at Colonial Gardens.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

The target audience is residents of Colonial Gardens-seniors and adults with disabilities living on limited incomes, who experience barriers to social engagement due to mobility challenges, health issues, or limited transportation.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

There will be no cost to attendees.

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

This project contributes to the cultural vitality of Southborough by making the arts accessible to a population that often has limited opportunities for creative engagement. Through shared artistic experiences, residents will have an outlet for self-expression, reflection, social connection, and joy—key components of emotional well-being and community building. The workshops will also highlight the arts as a unifying and healing force, helping residents experience catharsis through art and develop a renewed sense of belonging and pride in their community. By nurturing creativity in an underserved setting, the project promotes a more inclusive cultural landscape and reinforces the idea that art is for everyone.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

The workshops will be led by Southborough Youth and Family Services (SYFS) staff with experience facilitating activities in inclusive and therapeutic settings. SYFS is a town department that provides services, programs, and outreach to support mental health, wellness, and community connection. Staff leading the sessions include licensed mental health professionals and graduate level clinicians who integrate creative expression into wellness programming to promote emotional resilience and social well-being.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

Firm partners:

Southborough Housing Authority (Colonial Gardens): Providing space, helping to promote the program to residents, managing registration, and supporting resident participation.

Southborough Youth and Family Services: Project coordination, facilitation of workshops, and program evaluation.

Potential collaborators:

Southborough Cultural Arts Council: Potential support in funding, outreach, and community engagement.

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

Promotion will focus on direct outreach to Colonial Gardens residents through flyers, word of mouth, and personal invitations distributed by Housing Authority staff and SYFS outreach workers. Announcements of the community partnership will also be shared through the Town's social media and community newsletters to raise awareness of the initiative and highlight its role in supporting creative engagement for all residents.

Budget

Project Budget

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Supplies and Materials	Scrapbook page/Inspiration Board	
	• Scrapbook Magazine x 2 (\$40)	
	• Cardstock Paper x 2 (\$26)	
	• Double Sided Tape x2 (\$14)	
	• Sticker books (\$20)	
	Clay Modeling	
	• Air Drying Clay x 2 (\$42)	
	Greeting Cards	
	• Kits x 2 (\$26)	
	Flower Pots	
	• Small Pots x 2 (\$44)	
	• Paint x 2 (\$50)	
	• Tray Palettes (\$8)	
	• Small plants (\$30)	
	• Potting mix (\$10)	
	Adult Coloring Books	
	• Stress Relief Coloring Book (\$10)	
	• Flowers & Mandalas Coloring Book (\$6)	
	• Animals Coloring Book (\$13)	
	• Colored Pencils x 2 (\$40)	
	Mosaic Sand	
	• Kits x 2 (\$40)	
	General Supplies- \$50	
	• Paper towels	
	• newsprint to protect tables	
	• Water cups	
	• Containers/bin to keep supplies organized	
		\$500.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

SYFS is able to purchase materials for a few projects (rock painting, small canvas painting, and bookmark making) and light refreshments to serve at the corresponding meetings. Because the SYFS program budget is limited, additional funding is needed to offer additional projects.

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

Donations of materials could be solicited from the community.

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

If the council is not able to fund the full amount requested, SYFS staff will plan on fewer projects/meetings.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

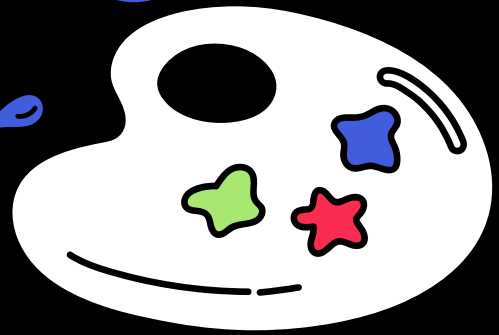
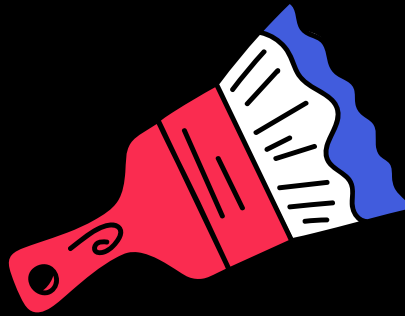
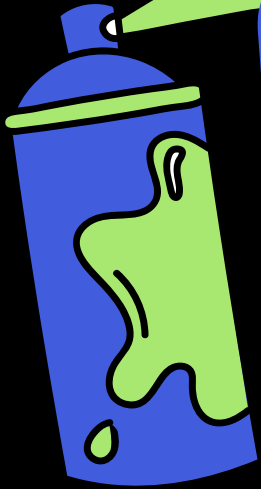
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**SOUTHBOROUGH YOUTH
AND FAMILY SERVICES**
STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY BY SUPPORTING ITS FAMILIES

JOIN THE

CRAFTY CREW



SECOND

FRIDAY

OF EACH MONTH

OCTOBER-MAY

10-11:30AM

ART PROJECTS AND CHIT CHAT-
AS SIMPLE AS THAT!

**COLONIAL GARDENS
PROGRAM ROOM**

ART MATERIALS AND
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED.
SPACE IS LIMITED; SIGN-UP IS REQUIRED.

**SIGN-UP WITH BILL AT THE HOUSING
AUTHORITY OFFICE**

Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Applicant Organization Information

Review the applicant information.

****Legal Name:** Town of Southborough Recreation Department

****Doing Business As:**

****Physical Address:**

****Address 1:** 21 Highland Street

****Address 2:**

****City:** Southborough

****State:** MA

****ZIP:** 01772-1913

Mailing Address (if different):

Mailing Address 1:

Mailing Address 2:

City:

State:

ZIP:

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Primary Contact

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Travis Farley
tfarley@southboroughma.com
508-473-0410

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$2,500

Project Discipline

Humanities

Project Title

2026 Rec Connect Events

When will the project take place?

Throughout the 2026 Calendar year

Where will the project take place?

Northborough, Southborough and Shrewsbury

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project.

100

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

No

Project Overview

Summarize the proposed project or program.

Rec Connect is a tri-town partnership established by the Northborough Recreation Department (partnering with Northborough and Shrewsbury) that provides adaptive and inclusive events for individuals of all abilities. This partnership was created because we firmly believe that inclusive events provide opportunities for both individuals with disabilities and those without to explore the arts and sciences, build strong and lasting social connections, break down socially constructed barriers, and enhance quality of life. We will engage in various events throughout 2026, such as trips to the theater, hosting a dance, teaching a music class, engaging in film appreciation, and participating in STEM projects, all while fostering a friendly and supportive social environment. Our goal is to reduce ticket costs to increase financial accessibility for participants, which this grant would help support

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

The targeted audience is individuals who have disabilities, their family and friends, and community members who want to engage in inclusive programming. Thus far, our events have ranged in age from 6 years old through adult (depending on the event).

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

With numerous events, prices vary. Tickets range from \$10 per person to \$50 for each event.

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

Now in its 2nd year, Rec Connect continues its mission to expand appreciation of the arts and sciences while fostering creativity, knowledge, and skill development. This initiative offers individuals of all abilities meaningful access to cultural and educational opportunities within their own community. By providing diverse avenues of engagement, we encourage participants to connect more deeply with the arts and sciences. These experiences help strengthen awareness of local resources while honoring and upholding the creative foundations of the community. Building on the success of its first year, Rec Connect expands its impact by continuing to open doors to experiences that enrich daily life and contribute to a more inclusive community.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

We will be working with various local performers and instructors. We meet with these individuals prior to the start of an event to discuss their experience working with individuals who have disabilities, ensuring they can provide a creative, educational, supportive, and safe environment for all.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

Both Shrewsbury and Southborough's Recreation Department are committed to this project for the 2026 calendar year and beyond

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

In order to promote this project to the community, we will advertise each event through the RISE program and the school department, so students and families will be aware of these opportunities. We will also engage local organizations that work with individuals who have disabilities to increase awareness about these events. Finally, we will send out email blasts to registrants in our My Rec database to increase awareness of inclusive opportunities in the local community.

Budget

Project Budget

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Ticket costs average \$25, and we are planning on 12 events in 2026 with an average of 10 participants per event.	\$3,000.00
Salaries/Fees: Administrative	On average, events last 3 hours, and employee rates are \$20/hour. We will be staffing roughly 3 people per event. This multiplied by our 12 events reaches the total	\$2,160.00
Equipment Rental	For events such as our dance, we need to purchase supplies and food.	\$1,000.00
		\$6,160.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

Other sources of projected income needed to complete this project include garnering grants, sponsorships, and donations, as well as charging participants for tickets (ticket pricing will be dependent upon what we raise through grants, sponsorships, and donations).

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

At this point in time, we are not aware of any in-kind support we will be receiving in the 2026 calendar year that will support this project.

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

If the Council is unable to fund the entire amount we are requesting, we may reduce the number of events we offer or increase ticket prices for participants in order to cover costs.



Application Summary:
FY26-LCC-114520

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

N/A

Rec Connect: Family Night Science Spectacular!

HOSTED BY TOP SECRET SCIENCE

This event is intended for participants of all ages with a disability and their family members, to enjoy a night of interesting experiments. Families will have an opportunity to connect with others who attend Rec Connect programs in a welcoming and supportive space. Families will make and take home 5-6 weird and wacky hands-on science experiments.

DATE: Thursday, Oct 10th

TIME: 6:30-8pm

AGES: All Ages!

COST: \$10/Family

LOCATION:

Northboro Town Hall
Gym (63 Main St)



Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

Karin Trachtenberg
karintrac@gmail.com
617-869-2649
3 Rockpoint Road
Southborough MA 01772-1732
www.karintrachtenberg.com

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$500

Project Discipline

Media Arts

Project Title

Emerging Voices: An Evening of Short Films

When will the project take place?

May 7, 2026 5-9pm

Where will the project take place?

Lincoln-Sudbury High School

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

200

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

No

Project Overview**Summarize the proposed project or program.**

An Evening of Short Films celebrating both accomplished local filmmakers and the next generation of cinematic voices. This community event will feature the premiere of a new film by award-winning filmmakers Karin Trachtenberg from Southborough and Julia Trueblood (Sudbury), alongside two of their earlier works that recently completed successful runs on the festival circuit.

Complementing these professional screenings, the program will also highlight student films from Algonquin and Lincoln-Sudbury High Schools offering young filmmakers the opportunity to showcase their work before a live audience.

The evening will include a post-show Q&A with filmmakers offering insights into their creative process, experiences on the festival circuit, and pathways into the industry. A reception designed to foster connection among filmmakers, students, and audiences will follow the screenings.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

The target audience is teenage filmmakers from Southboro, Northboro, Lincoln and Sudbury and their peers, families and teachers. As well as Metrowest community members who value cultural events and want to support local talent.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

There will be no cost for student film submissions, or to attend the event. Donations are welcome.

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

The Evening of Short Films will bring together students, parents, educators, artists, and community members of all ages in a shared celebration of creativity and storytelling. For the professional filmmakers, it is an opportunity to reconnect with their local audience and share work that has gained recognition beyond the community. For students, it is a powerful moment of validation—seeing their films screened in a professional setting affirms that their voices and perspectives matter. By strengthening local connections and broadening access to the arts, the screening affirms the importance of investing in young creators and highlights cinema’s role in fostering education, cultural exchange, and community pride.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

Karin Trachtenberg and Julia Trueblood's two short films—Three AM and Pumpkin Pie have screened at over 30 film festivals across New England and the US earning 15 awards. Their third project, EXIT, will be completed by April 2026. Dedicated to amplifying women’s voices, they focus on female-driven stories and maintain crews that are at least 90% women.

Southboro resident Karin Trachtenberg is a theatre and film artist with a 40-year career. She has performed across the US, UK, and Europe, including a world tour of her acclaimed one-woman show My Mother Had Two Faces. Actress Trueblood has appeared in professional theatres throughout Greater Boston. Together, they balance careers, families, and a shared passion for authentic storytelling.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

Rental of screening hall at Lincoln-Sudbury High School has been secured (see confirmation email in supplemental materials). Producers will work with Algonquin and Lincoln-Sudbury High School arts and media departments to solicit student films, as well as the town media access centers.

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

Regular posts across social media platforms and press releases to local media outlets will be shared to promote the screening. Flyers will be distributed and posted throughout town. In addition, Women in Film and Video New England will promote the screening to their extensive community of filmmakers and supporters. Finally, the participating filmmakers will send personal invitations to their friends, family, neighbors, and colleagues, ensuring a well-attended event.

Budget

Project Budget

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Space Rental	Lincoln-Sudbury High School Lecture Hall - 5 hour rental	\$200.00
Space Rental	One night Event Insurance required by LSHS	\$150.00
Marketing/Promotion	Printing of flyers/posters/programs	\$350.00
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Professional Event Photographer	\$300.00
Supplies and Materials	Step and Repeat Banner and stand - backdrop for "red carpet" photos	\$250.00
		\$1,250.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

There are no other sources of income needed to produce the community screening event. The three short films, Three AM, Pumpkin Pie and Exit have been privately funded and are ready to go.

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

We will request in-kind donations of refreshments from local bakeries and restaurants. Producers Karin and Julia are contributing their time for all outreach, promotion, and event coordination as part of their in-kind support.

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

If full funding is not received, we will seek additional support through local business sponsorship. We could also scale back by removing the Photographer, and/or the Step and Repeat Banner which was included to help create a "red carpet" atmosphere.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

We will apply to the Lincoln and Sudbury LCC's.

About US

01

Under the banner of the newly formed **Third Act Productions**, Director/Producer **Karin Trachtenberg** and Actor/Producer **Julia Trueblood** announce their third collaboration, now entering pre-production. This new project reunites them with award-winning playwright Gino Dilorio for a screen adaptation of his acclaimed full-length play **Three Exits**.

The duo's first two films established their reputation for bold, intimate storytelling. Their debut, **Three A.M.**, follows two mothers in the middle of the night as they grapple with the urgent question: how to keep their children safe. Their second film, **Pumpkin Pie**, tells the story of a bakery owner whose coveted solitude is interrupted on Thanksgiving morning by a frantic customer who refuses to be turned away.

Their short films have screened at more than 30 festivals nationwide, earning 15 awards and establishing the company as a rising presence on the independent film circuit.

As local creatives and parents of aspiring artists, Karin and Julia aim to inspire emerging filmmakers and spark intergenerational dialogue around film, storytelling, and the arts—showing the lasting impact of investing in creative youth.



PROGRAM DETAILS

- **Date & Venue:** May 7, 2026, at Lincoln-Sudbury High School. Two screenings to be held at 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM, accomodating up to 200 attendees. (see email confirmation from LSHS on next page)
- **Screenings:** Premiere of Julia Trueblood and Karin Trachtenberg's latest film, along with two award-winning shorts.
- **Student Showcase:** Curated selection of films from Lincoln-Sudbury, Algonquin and Concord-Carlisle High Schools.
- **Post-Screening Discussion:** Q&A with the filmmakers on the creative process, the festival circuit, and pathways into the industry
- **Community Reception:** Networking opportunity designed to build connection among filmmakers, students, and audiences.

Budget

Space Rental - \$200


Event Insurance - \$150

Printing - \$350

Photographer - \$300

Step & Repeat Banner - \$250





Sharita Langston

to me ▼

11:51AM (8 hours ago) ☆ 😊 ↩

Hi-

I placed your event on our calendar for Thursday, May 7th from 4pm-9pm

Please send a check written out to Lincoln Sudbury Regional School District.
You can address the envelope to Sharita Langston.

At some point, the A/V person would like to chat with you as well.
The A/V person's name is Charles Despotopulos- charles_despotopulos@lsrhs.net

Please let me know if you have any further questions and/or concerns.

Thank you-again!

Sharita Langston
Admin.Assistant to Superintendent/Principal
Secretary to the School Committee
LSRHS
390 Lincoln Road
Sudbury,MA. 01776
Phone #-978.443.9961 ext 2370

Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

Jon Waterman
jwaterman01970@gmail.com
978-397-4448
475 North Ave
Haverhill MA 01830-1547
www.jonwaterman.com

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$400

Project Discipline

Music

Project Title

Live Music Making History Live

When will the project take place?

tbd in 2026

Where will the project take place?

tbd in Southborough

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

30

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

No

Project Overview

Summarize the proposed project or program.

Live Music Making History Live is a series of programs that use songs performed on guitar & vocal, along with slides & narratives to inspire an enthusiasm for history. Designed for libraries, schools & other venues. There are 4 programs:

"A Journey through the Roots of American Popular Music" explores the origins of the blues, rock & country music.

"History & Legends through Song" explores characters & events from ancient Sumer to the present: the first known author, Historic New England, medieval Europe & more.

"The Railroad in Song" explores the RR in US history. Includes the work of Chinese & Irish workers, the Great Migration, John Henry, Casey Jones & more.

"Popular Music & Veterans" explores & honors the experiences of veterans throughout US history. From the Revolutionary War to Vietnam.

A new program being offered for the 2026 sesquicentennial is "US History through Songs"

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

Adults, seniors, young adults, anyone with an enthusiasm for history, and those who enjoy music or stories

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

None

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

Exploring and celebrating history promotes diversity and appreciation of culture- and helps people understand each other and why different populations perspectives are what they are, as well as the underlying reasons for one's own perspectives. Celebrating history also brings individuals together as a people- helping forge a sense of identity from shared stories and experiences. History as a source of entertainment also promotes a further enthusiasm for and exploration of history which promotes critical thinking, awareness and understanding of contemporary events, and more.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

Musician, songwriter, and history enthusiast Jon Waterman has been performing his original songs along with blues, rock and country standards throughout his life. His songs are influenced by stories from history and the diversity of the human experience. He has presented his "Live Music Making History Live" programs around the country. Jon is a licensed History Teacher in Mass. He has an MA in Popular Music History from Prescott College, an MA in Psychology from Kaplan University, and a BA in History from Northern Arizona University.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

There will be promotion via social media, website, mailing lists, promotional appearances, and news releases to local newspapers and community media.

Budget

Project Budget

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Includes cost and time of development of program, writing of script, composing material, rehearsals	\$100.00
Equipment Purchase	Laptop and flat screen for slideshow display; sound equipment (the laptop currently used is no longer reliable and can't be repaired, it was purchased used.)	\$100.00
Supplies and Materials	Cables, strings, software, office supplies	\$100.00
Marketing/Promotion	Promotional costs, social media marketing, internet promotion	\$100.00
		\$400.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

N/A

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

If the room permits, the program can be presented with minimal sound equipment reducing that expense. If the venue has its own outreach (e.g., mailing lists, newsletters, etc.) and is able to assist w/ promotion, that expense can be reduced also.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

Catherine Weber
CWEBER55@GMAIL.COM
508-523-3605
5 CLIFFORD STREET
Southborough MA 01772-1501
artonthetrails.com

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$750

Project Discipline

Visual Arts

Project Title

Art on the Trails 2026

When will the project take place?

June - September, 2026

Where will the project take place?

Beals Preserve, Southborough, MA

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

1,000

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

No

Project Overview**Summarize the proposed project or program.**

We are requesting funding for the 2026 Art on the Trails program, which is held at the Elaine & Philip Beals Preserve. The program includes a juried exhibition of artwork, a poetry program that responds to the art, a published catalog/ poetry chapbook, an installation day and closing event, and walking tours. This program addresses the need for more cultural events in our community while also enhancing the lives of our residents through a nature experience. The goal is to increase visitation at Beals Preserve and educate community members about the benefits of preserved open space.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

The target audience is the general public, including special programs for school-aged children, as well as artists and poets.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

There is no cost to participate in visiting the preserve, viewing the art or attending the events.

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

This program draws attention to Beals Preserve and encourages the general public to visit and enjoy this special property. The public is invited to participate in Art on the Trails by submitting art and/ or poetry, as well as attending guided walks. These activities bring people into the woods to experience nature uniquely and thoughtfully, and help combat the growing issue of nature deficit disorder among all populations. The ultimate goal is to enhance quality of life by spending time in nature and exposure to art and poetry.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

The program director, Catherine Weber, provides the structure and management of this program. I have 9 years of experience running this program, along with many years of experience organizing and curating exhibitions, as well as being a poet and artist living in Southborough. Each year a noted artist is selected to jury the show. The poetry component of the program is lead by accomplished poets Maura Snell. A poetry juror who selects the winning poem, is chosen in February.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

The program is in collaboration with Southborough Open Land Foundation, which owns the land and actively supports the program, as well as Southborough Community Fund, which serves as a partner and major funder. Southborough resident and professional photographer Chelsea Bradway serves as our photographer. We also have several volunteers who help with event setup and management.

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

The promotion of this project is significant as Catherine has a background in marketing and is deeply connected to the community and news outlets in Boston and Metrowest. Marketing includes the website/blog artonthetrails.com, advertising on Facebook and Instagram, as well as articles in the Metrowest Daily News, The Community Advocate, features on Boston TV stations (WBZ covered us in 2025), and various online publications, including mysouthborough.com.

Budget**Project Budget**

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Artist Stipends	\$1,500.00
Salaries/Fees: Administrative	Project management	\$2,000.00
Salaries/fees: Contractors	Art and Poetry Jurors	\$600.00
Marketing/Promotion	Flyers, posters, advertising	\$1,500.00
Production/Technical Costs	Installation support	\$500.00
Supplies and Materials	Book design and publishing	\$2,000.00
		\$8,100.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

We have applied for a grant of \$6,500 from the Southborough Community Fund, and will supplement the budget with sponsorships from local businesses and private schools.

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

We have a number of volunteers who help us run the project including marketing and installation support.

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

We will have to limit the number of artists and stipends, and reduce the number of chapbooks we print.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

Not applicable.

Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Applicant Organization Information

Review the applicant information.

****Legal Name:** Westborough Community Chorus, Inc.

****Doing Business As:**

****Physical Address:**

****Address 1:** 4 Richards Road

****Address 2:**

****City:** Westborough

****State:** MA

****ZIP:** 01772-2071

Mailing Address (if different):

Mailing Address 1: PO Box 702

Mailing Address 2:

City: Westborough

State: Massachusetts

ZIP: 01581-2613

****If you need to update one of these fields, you can submit a note through the system or [email grants.team@mass.gov](mailto:grants.team@mass.gov)**

If you would like to update your organization's mailing address, please update it in your Organization Profile. Here's how:

- Click Save Draft before navigating away from this page.
- Then click on Home in the upper right corner.
- Click on Organization Profile to update the fields, and then click on Save.
- This application will be in your "In Progress" section of your Home page so you can continue working.

Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

William Harrington
banjobillo@verizon.net
508-485-8737

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$500

Project Discipline

Music

Project Title

60 Member Chorus Performance with sets and costumes

When will the project take place?

May 2026. Exact date contingent of auditorium availability

Where will the project take place?

Gibbons Middle School, Westborough

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

800

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

No

Project Overview

Summarize the proposed project or program.

The presentation of our show will include two performances. The preparation for the show consists of approximately 20 weekly rehearsals. The Westborough Community 'Chorus (WCC) is a non-profit community service group of approximately 60 singers from Westborough, Southborough and 23 surrounding area towns. The themed performances are enhanced by costumed performers and digitally projected backgrounds. The program includes a full chorus, small group numbers and instrumental accompaniment. The shows provide wholesome family entertainment for audience from entire MetroWest area

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

Our shows draw a faithful and enthusiastic audience from the MetroWest area.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

Tickets for adults are \$15 and children and seniors are \$10

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

Approximately 600 people attend our productions. Another large group of people see the show on local cable stations in towns around the area. Ticket prices are kept at reasonable levels to encourage family attendance. A portion of the income from the shows covers the cost of the show productions including sets, costuming, music and other related expenses. However, and more importantly, another portion provides scholarships for private music instructions for middle and high school students.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

The chorus consists of individuals who have normal singing ability and love to sing. Auditions are not required.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

This event is posted on the WCC website: www.westborocommunitychorus.com. It is advertised in local area news outlets, signs and on cable TV. Flyers are posted in venues in all area towns.

Budget

Project Budget

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Musical director, accompanist, 2 instrumentalists, set designer and crew	\$4,000.00
Production/Technical Costs	Music, sets materials and costuming	\$1,000.00
Marketing/Promotion	Signs, posters and flyers	\$350.00
Equipment Rental	LED Projector	\$300.00
Other (please describe)	Printing - Tickets and programs	\$800.00
Other (please describe)	Insurance	\$1,000.00
Other (please describe)	Janitorial and police	\$1,000.00
		\$8,450.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

Tickets
Sponsors
Advertisements in our programs

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

Scale back on costumes and sets. Reduce number of scholarships awarded.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

Westborough Cultural Council
Grafton Cultural Council

Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

Dennis Wise
dennwise@gmail.com
781-608-0548
2 Ponkapoag Way
Canton MA 02021-1117
<https://www.theftofdignity.com/>

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$950

Project Discipline

Humanities

Project Title

The Theft of Dignity: School Anti-bullying Presentation

When will the project take place?

Between January and December 2026.

Where will the project take place?

It will take place in the middle school.

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

350

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

Yes

Where does the project take place?

In-School

Total Number of Youth Served

350

Project Overview

Summarize the proposed project or program.

An in-school bullying awareness assembly for middle or high school students. Using familiar pop culture examples and short video clips, it shows how bullying harms targets, bystanders, and the wider school community, and teaches safe, nonviolent, non-degrading responses.

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

Middle and high school students.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

Free

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

This in-school bullying awareness assembly strengthens the community by building a culture of dignity, empathy, and safe choices. It is scheduled during the school day so all students in the selected grade(s) can attend at no cost. Using familiar pop culture examples and short video clips, it shows how bullying harms targets, bystanders, and the wider school community and teaches safe, nonviolent, non-degrading responses. The result is a more respectful school climate that benefits students, families, and staff.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

The assembly is led by Dennis S. Wise, a young adult author, SAG-AFTRA actor, and speaker on teen bullying. He holds a BA from Harvard University. His YA novel, *On Your Side*, is critically acclaimed for its anti-bullying message. Dennis has delivered bullying awareness school assemblies across Massachusetts, reaching thousands of students. He presents with clear narration and draws on his years as a TV and film actor to hold students' attention. No additional artists or organizations are required to lead the cultural component.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

None

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

A mandatory school assembly.

Budget

Project Budget

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Speaker Fee for Anti-Bullying Presentation	\$950.00
		\$950.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

The funding awarded by the council will fully cover the cost of this presentation. No additional income is required.

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

None

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

The presentation is contingent upon receiving grant funding. Without the necessary financial support, it would not be feasible to carry out The Theft of Dignity presentation.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

Dear Cultural Council,

Thank you for considering this bullying awareness school assembly. This presentation has been presented across Massachusetts, has reached thousands of students, and has been met with great praise. I would be honored to bring it to your community as well.

Warmest regards,

Dennis Wise

Author, Actor, and Speaker on Teen Bullying

(781) 608-0548

info@theftofdignity.com

www.theftofdignity.com

The THEFT of DIGNITY

Ameliorating Teen Bullying
One Presentation at a Time

ABOUT THE PRESENTATION

The Theft of Dignity is an engaging presentation by novelist and actor Dennis Wise that raises awareness about the impact of peer bullying and how it can be addressed constructively.

Teens are not just told about the dangers of bullying. They see it reflected in characters from their favorite TV shows, movies, and novels, including Dennis' own young adult book, *On Your Side*. The goal is to use popular culture as a bridge to understanding how serious bullying can be and the effect it has not only on those being targeted, but also on everyone around them.

This presentation has been delivered throughout Massachusetts and has received strong, positive responses for both its meaningful message and its engaging delivery.



HOW THE THEFT OF DIGNITY SPEAKS TO TEENS ABOUT PEER BULLYING

- **ANYONE CAN BE BULLIED, AND ANYONE CAN ALSO BE A BULLY:** Using examples from pop culture, such as Taylor Swift and *The Big Bang Theory*, Dennis demonstrates that no one is immune to bullying—regardless of fame or status. He also emphasizes the importance of recognizing when we ourselves might act like bullies. This presentation teaches teens to see both sides clearly and encourages them to always treat others the way they'd want to be treated.
- **DON'T USE THE BULLIES' TACTICS:** He helps students understand that responding with cruelty doesn't resolve the situation and may cause additional harm to themselves and others. Through real-life stories and examples from popular shows like *Mean Girls* and *Cobra Kai*, he illustrates that using the same brutal tactics as bullies leads to negative consequences for everyone involved. Students are encouraged to find non-violent, non-degrading ways to handle bullying.
- **YOU'RE NOT THE LABELS BULLIES ATTACH TO YOU:** Dennis teaches students that the cruel names and labels bullies try to attach to them do not reflect who they truly are. He explains that when people judge others, they are looking through a narrow lens and missing the bigger picture of who a person really is. Students are reminded that their worth comes from their full selves, not from snapshots of judgment meant to degrade, hurt, or humiliate them.



TESTIMONIALS

“Dennis gave a great presentation on bullying. He provided real-life experiences in his PowerPoint presentation. He engaged with the attendees and was able to connect with the audience.”

—Kerry Remington, Rutland Public Library Director

“Mr. Wise addresses the bullying issue facing our youth with sensitivity and insight. His professional presence and impactful delivery come through in a well-produced presentation. Should be seen in all schools.”

—Many Hughes, Needham Council for Arts & Culture Member

“After attending Dennis Wise’s presentation on anti-bullying at the Acushnet Library in May, I believe his work is greatly needed and should be offered in all school systems. His sincere effort to help youth understand bullying through the perspectives of victims, perpetrators, and bystanders comes through clearly. The presentation was effective, thoughtful, and accessible to all ages.”

—Bertha Petruski, youth educator

“It was a pleasure to have Dennis Wise present ‘Theft of Dignity’ at our library. Dennis had great research, resources and examples to share and was able to meet our patrons where they were at. I recommend him to other libraries and schools who are trying to effectively address bullying.”

—Janet Forest, Dalton Public Library Director

MEET THE PRESENTER

Dennis Wise is the creator and presenter of *The Theft of Dignity*. He is also the author of the young adult anti-bullying novel *On Your Side*. Dennis has worked for nearly two decades as an actor in television and film. He brings this performance expertise to his presentations, making them engaging and impactful. Dennis holds a BA from Harvard University, where his dedication to social justice first began and has continued throughout his career.



To learn more about the presentation, visit:
www.theftofdignity.com

THE THEFT OF DIGNITY
2 Ponkapoag Way
Canton, MA 02021
info@theftofdignity.com
(781) 608-0548

Application To: Southborough Cultural Arts Council

Applicant Information

Applicant Organization Information

Review the applicant information.

****Legal Name:** Women of Note, Incorporated

****Doing Business As:**

****Physical Address:**

****Address 1:** 14 Joseph Rd

****Address 2:**

****City:** Northborough

****State:** MA

****ZIP:** 01532-2353

Mailing Address (if different):

Mailing Address 1:

Mailing Address 2:

City:

State:

ZIP:

****If you need to update one of these fields, you can submit a note through the system or [email grants.team@mass.gov](mailto:grants.team@mass.gov)**

If you would like to update your organization's mailing address, please update it in your Organization Profile. Here's how:

- Click Save Draft before navigating away from this page.
- Then click on Home in the upper right corner.
- Click on Organization Profile to update the fields, and then click on Save.
- This application will be in your "In Progress" section of your Home page so you can continue working.

Primary Contact

The Primary Contact is responsible for all communications regarding the application, including questions and contracts. If you need to update the Primary Contact information you can do so in your Profile. Click the Home button in the upper right corner to get to the My Profile button.

Julie Schwingbeck
womenofnote.grants@gmail.com
508-207-2222

Project Information

Amount Requested

\$500

Project Discipline

Music

Project Title

Women of Note 2025-2026 Concert Series

When will the project take place?

Multiple dates between July 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026

Where will the project take place?

Multiple sites in the Metrowest including Northborough, Westborough, Shrewsbury, Ashburnham, and Hopedale

Estimated number of people served

Number of People Served - Estimate of the number of individuals that you predict will participate in or benefit from this project. This field only accepts numeric values, not text.

1,000

Does this project primarily serve schoolchildren (grades pre-K to 12)?

No

Project Overview**Summarize the proposed project or program.**

Women of Note, an a cappella chorus performs concerts at various venues throughout the area. Southborough residents Jeanine Hinterneder and Rebecca Christianson are members of the chorus. Our repertoire includes jazzy up-tunes and heartfelt ballads composed between the 1860's and 2017. Our 2025-2026 Concert Season runs from July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026 and we currently have 10 performances scheduled (8/4, 9/7, 10/18, 12/15, 12/21, 1/24, 2/19, 3/20, 5/30, 6/20) in towns throughout the Metrowest - Ashburnham, Boylston, Hopedale, Northborough, Shrewsbury, Sudbury, and Westborough. For an example of what we sound like, you can see the chorus performing "Love Me and the World is Mine" at the Harmony, Inc. International Contest and Convention in Louisville, KY Nov. 2024, here: <https://youtu.be/KzDvcblSDRA>

Who is the target audience for this project?

Target Audience: The specific individuals you are hoping to attract to attend or participate in a project. These individuals may be defined by age, economic status, geographic location, interests, etc.

We appeal to music lovers of all ages. Our performances are well received at family festivals, library performances, and retirement communities, to name a few of our audiences.

What is the cost of participation for attendees (if any)?

Most free

One ticketed show in Westboro (\$15)

Retirement communities hire us @ reduced fee (\$350)

How does the proposed project provide benefit and contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole?

Public Benefit: Local council funds may only be used to support activities that contribute to the cultural vitality of the community as a whole, rather than benefitting any private individual or group. However, this does not mean that a large crowd of people needs to participate in order to satisfy the public benefit requirement. An important component of public benefit is advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and access.

A cappella music performed in the barbershop style is a uniquely American art form. Our varied repertoire introduces music from several different eras to our audiences. In addition to sharing wonderful close-knit harmonies, our performances demonstrate that singing can be a lifelong passion. In our concerts throughout the Metrowest, we bring heartfelt performances to retirement communities, historical society patrons, and concert goers.

Please describe the qualification of key artists, humanists, interpretive scientists or organizations involved with leading the cultural component of this project.

Celebrating our 36th anniversary this coming April, the chorus has earned 10 international medals with Harmony, Inc., an international organization of female singers. We are under our own direction. Rehearsals are led by our Education Team and we bring in coaches to help develop our musicality and performance capabilities. Women of Note attends both Area and International Contests and Conventions where we attend classes, participate in chorus contests, and receive coaching. Our directors, Maria Gabriella and Nanda Landers, are champion quartet singers with Harmony, Incorporated. Women of Note is the current Area 2 (New England States and Montreal) 2nd place chorus.

If there are any other individuals or organizations that will be involved in the project as planners, partners, or collaborators, please list them below. If applicable, please distinguish between those who have made a firm commitment to the project and those with tentative or potential involvement.

Performances at the following locations have been booked so far:

8/4/25 Show, BCNE Northboro

9/7/25 Private gig, Boylston

10/18/25 In Harmony Against Hunger, Westboro

12/15/25 Holiday Show, BCNE Northboro

12/21/25 Orchard Hill, Sudbury

1/24/26 Atria Draper Place, Hopedale

2/19/26 Southgate, Shrewsbury

3/20/26 Trinity Coffee House, Northboro

5/30/26 Women of Note Present: A Night at the Movies: Songs of Stage and Screen, Westboro

6/20/26 Historical Society, Ashburnham

How are you planning to promote the project to the community and your target audience?

We promote our concerts via press releases, flyers, website (www.womenofnote.org), Facebook (@WomenofNoteChorus).

Budget

Project Budget

Cash Expenses	Description	Amount
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Coaching fees	\$3,100.00
Salaries/Fees: Artists/Humanists/Scientists	Directors' honoraria	\$3,104.00
Space Rental	Rehearsal Space	\$1,950.00
Marketing/Promotion	Festival Booths, flyers, banners, business card printing	\$350.00
Communications	website and chorus management system, Zoom license	\$620.00
Travel/Transportation	coaches' travel	\$400.00
Other (please describe)	chorus member education	\$600.00
Other (please describe)	Music	\$1,500.00
Other (please describe)	Learning Tracks	\$475.00
Other (please describe)	mechanical licensing for learning tracks	\$100.00
Other (please describe)	Coaching retreat weekend expense	\$2,000.00
Other (please describe)	Performance Costume	\$920.00
		\$15,119.00

Projected Income: Please briefly describe the other sources of projected income needed to complete this project.

Fundraising (scrip cards, Savers collection, Singing Telegrams) \$3400

Show profit, Performance income, and grants from other towns' LCCs \$6334

Member Contributions \$4885

In-Kind Support: If applicable, please briefly describe any in-kind support you are getting for this project.

Artistic Fees - All singers volunteer their time and travel to get to performances. The 11-member education team teaches the music to the chorus as volunteers.

Administrative fees - all chorus positions (president, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, 4 Board-members-at-large, Chorus manager, Grant writer, etc. are volunteer positions and members donate their time and talents to run the organization. Volunteers transport our risers and set them up.

How will you adjust the project if the council cannot fund the entire amount you are requesting? (For example, how will you raise additional funds or scale the programming back?)

We will arrange additional paid performances or ask members to donate more funds to the running of the organization.

If you have applied to other Tribal or Local Cultural Councils for funding for this specific project, please list the names of those councils below.

Ashburnham, Hopedale, Northborough, Shrewsbury, Westborough