

WELLESLEY CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Wellesley Cultural Council consists of a group of Wellesley residents appointed by the Selectmen. Its primary task is to administer the funds that the Massachusetts Cultural Council allots to Wellesley from state funds, including the state lottery. These funds support the arts, humanities and sciences in the Wellesley community. The Council also serves as an advocacy voice for the arts in our town and state. Members in 2014-2015 were: Nora Tracy-Phillips (Chair), Karen Griswold (Secretary), Philip Rolph (Treasurer), Marshall Cannell, Lois Goodman, Anne Lysaght, Terri Sevilla, Arlene Schulz and Holly Sullivan.

Local Cultural Grants

The Wellesley Cultural Council meets on average four times each year at a location open to the public. In September, the call for grant applications is announced in the *Wellesley Townsman* and blank applications are made available online. Completed applications must be postmarked or hand delivered to the Town Hall no later than October 15. The applications are then catalogued on the Council's web site, and copies are given to each Council member. Members held one meeting in the fall to determine which grants are of the highest priority and to determine the dollar amounts to be awarded to each successful applicant. Recommendations for grants to be funded are completed by December 15 of each year and decisions are passed on to the Massachusetts Cultural Council for approval. Wellesley Cultural Council is considered to be a "streamlined" local council because we have an excellent track record with grants management and council training. Therefore, our grants are approved by early January and funds are made available by the end of that month. Members held a second meeting in the spring to discuss what method to use to gather community input. Community input is required every 3 years according to the Massachusetts Cultural Council guidelines for funding. Meetings are posted at Town Hall and open to the public.

All grants are "reimbursable," meaning that grant funds are distributed only after an event or activity has taken place and documentation to that effect has been presented to the Wellesley Cultural Council's Treasurer for reimbursement. When approved grants are not used by the recipient, these funds carry over to the next grant cycle.

WCC encourages all Wellesley organizations, as well as individual artists, humanists and scientists residing in the Town of Wellesley to consider applying for Council funds. The Council also considers applicants from other Massachusetts communities who wish to bring cultural opportunities to residents of Wellesley.

For Fiscal Year 2015, the Wellesley Cultural Council received a total of 13 applications and voted to award funds to the following 8 groups or individuals: Davis Bates (\$600), Delvana Theatre Company (\$450), Heritage Chorale, Inc. (\$500), John Root (\$450), the Rotary Club of Wellesley (\$850), Tommy Rull (\$225), Wellesley Choral Society (\$2,000), and Wellesley Symphony Orchestra (\$1,022).

Respectfully submitted,
Nora Tracy-Phillips, Chair, FY 2015