



Wellesley Local Cultural Council Recipients, FY 2025

Combating Hate and Prejudice

(Janet Applefield) – \$450

Taking place at Wellesley High School, this program features Holocaust survivor Janet Applefield, who shares her personal testimony, reads from her memoir *Becoming Janet*, and discusses combating hate and prejudice. The presentation includes a Q&A session and a perspective from her daughter on intergenerational trauma. Designed primarily for high school students, this event aims to foster awareness and resilience in the face of hate and intolerance.

Wellesley's 57th Veterans Parade and Wellesley Wonderful Weekend

(Wellesley Celebrations Committee) – \$1,400

Scheduled for May 18, 2025, in Wellesley, this long-standing community event will feature a parade with approximately 10,000 attendees. Local organizations, municipal departments, and civic groups will be showcased, celebrating veterans and the broader Wellesley community. The grant will help fund new musical performances and cultural elements, enhancing the diversity and engagement of the parade.

A Song & Story Summer Reading Celebration

(Davis R. Bates III) – \$550

Held on July 11, 2025, at Wellesley Free Library, this family-friendly program encourages literacy through interactive songs and stories from around the world. Performer Davis Bates, an award-winning storyteller, will use traditional folktales and music to educate, entertain, and foster a sense of community. This event supports the library's summer reading initiative, promoting intergenerational engagement and cultural appreciation.

Masters of the 18th and 19th c. Sacred Music

(Wellesley Choral Society) – \$1,000

Taking place in Spring 2025 in Wellesley, this classical choral concert will feature works by Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, and Schubert. The event aims to bring affordable, high-quality choral music to the Wellesley community and surrounding areas, appealing to both classical music enthusiasts and new audiences alike. The performance will highlight the richness of sacred music from the 18th and 19th centuries.

Yarning Around the Commonwealth

(Rosann Fleischauer) – \$1,000

This ongoing 2025 project will be featured in various public spaces in Wellesley, engaging the community in a collaborative fiber arts initiative. Participants will create knitted or crocheted squares that will be assembled into large-scale public textile installations (yarn bombing). The project raises awareness about textile recycling, sustainability, and slow fashion while fostering community involvement in public art.



How Creative Expression Can Benefit Older Adults

(Wellesley Society of Artists, Inc.) – \$310

Set for Spring 2025 at a Wellesley Council on Aging venue, this initiative explores the therapeutic benefits of creative expression for older adults. Through workshops and interactive presentations, participants will engage in visual arts activities that promote cognitive health, social connection, and well-being. The program underscores the role of artistic engagement in enhancing quality of life for senior community members.

Wellesley Symphony Orchestra 2024-25 Season

(Wellesley Symphony Orchestra, Inc.) – \$1,000

This grant supports the 2024-25 concert season at MassBay Community College in Wellesley, providing the community with access to live orchestral performances. The Wellesley Symphony Orchestra will present a diverse lineup of classical and contemporary works, promoting cultural enrichment and music education. The season will feature both professional musicians and student collaborations.

Exploring New Directions

(Wellesley Town Band) – \$1,200

Taking place throughout the 2024-25 season at Wellesley High School and other local venues, this initiative supports the Wellesley Town Band's exploration of new musical styles and repertoire. By expanding its programming, the band aims to engage a broader audience and foster musical appreciation within the community. The funding will help with performance costs and outreach efforts.

Musical Baseball Show

(Howard Newman) – \$400

A unique blend of music and baseball history, this engaging performance will be held in Spring/Summer 2025 at Wellesley Free Library. Performer Howard Newman uses songs and storytelling to bring baseball's history to life, making the event both educational and entertaining for audiences of all ages. This interactive show celebrates the cultural significance of America's pastime through music.

We Are Wellesley

(Catherine Bueker) – \$2,860

Scheduled for May 2025 at Wellesley Free Library, the Wellesley Housing Authority Community Center at Barton Road, and Tolles-Parsons Center, this project highlights Wellesley's evolving community identity. Through oral histories, photography, and public art installations, the initiative will document the town's increasing diversity. The project seeks to foster dialogue, cultural awareness, and a deeper sense of belonging among residents.