

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

ARLINGTON CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Arlington Cultural Council (ACC) is a local council of the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), and consists of volunteers appointed by the Arlington Board of Selectmen for a three-year term. The board's main function is to support and encourage the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences in Arlington by dispersing state funds to deserving applicants.

The ACC meets once a month at a public place, generally the Cyrus E. Dallin House or the Robbins Library. All meetings are announced in advance and open to the general public. During 2005, Shari Craig and Cheryl Hemenway resigned from the ACC but agreed to continue serving in an ex-officio capacity. Two new members joined the ACC this year, Tom Formicola and Margaret Ryder.

Though much of the Council's business is related to grant cycle activities, occurring September through December, it is active year-round. Last February, the ACC held its second reception for grant recipients at the Whittemore Robbins House. Awardees and members of the general public gathered to hear about funded projects and celebrate culture in Arlington. In March, members of the ACC attended the MCC Convening at the State House in Boston where they shared ideas and met with other local cultural council delegates from around the state. The Council regularly submits articles to the Arlington Advocate -- soliciting grant applications, publicizing funded projects, and encouraging participation in the Council.

At Arlington Town Day in September, the ACC hosted a booth where general information, as well as applications, and guidelines were distributed. In addition, the ACC's participation in these festivities included the coordination of a chalk art event that attracted more than 70 artists of all ages.

Our October 17, 2005 application deadline was promoted in several announcements in the Arlington Advocate. Two coaching sessions were conducted at Robbins Library for those seeking help in completing their applications. Following the deadline, applicants were invited to two public sessions that provided opportunity for them to elaborate on their projects. Soon thereafter, the council held a voting meeting to decide which applications would be funded. Applicants not receiving funds were notified in November, and those receiving funds were notified of their awards in December.

In the most recently completed grant cycle, thirty-four applications were received from schools, individual artists, and cultural groups. These applications included requests from residents of Arlington as well as other towns and cities in Massachusetts. After deliberations, the Council awarded sixteen applicants a total of \$9,110 allocated by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Awards for the fiscal year 2006 grant cycle include the following:

ARLINGTON ARTS COUNCIL GRANTS 2005	
Awardee / Project	Amount
Arlington Children's Theatre	\$500
Arlington Historical Society	\$490
Arlington Intergenerational Book Club	\$540
Arlington PTO Townwide Enrichment	\$1,400
Liz Buchanan	\$1,000
Community Intervention Program	\$525
Karen Dillon	\$800
Cathy Garnett	\$1,100
Steve Henderson	\$350
Pierce Elementary School	\$300
The Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum	\$290
Thompson Elementary School	\$310
Three Apples Storytelling Festival	\$250
True Story Theater	\$500
Alson Vannah	\$100
Andrea Anisha Desai	\$500

In addition to our ongoing meetings, the ACC plans to present its third annual reception celebrating grant recipients and local culture in April.

Other goals for the upcoming year include recruiting new council members, gathering community input, and increasing awareness of the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences in Arlington.

The ACC welcomes prospective new members at our monthly meetings. Those who are interested may contact the Council at arlington@mass-culture.org.