

MALC 2017 ARTISTS UNDER THE DOME- TALKING POINTS

TIPS

- 1) Don't be nervous talking to elected officials and their staff. We have found they are generally interested our community! Feel free to use this flyer for some talking points on important issues to bring up with your senator, representative, and their staff. Remember, if you don't get to meet with your representative or senator, meeting with a member of their staff is key. State House staffers are some of the kindest people MALC has worked with! Remember to get the business card(s) of who you meet with and send them a thank you note.
- 2) Make sure you tell them what kind of art you make and put them on your art mailing list!

KEY ISSUES

- 1) Ask them to support legislation and regulations that support and protect the rights of individual artists of all disciplines- especially their intellectual property as well as their right to be paid for their work.**(also see the MALC handout listing key legislation)**
- 2) Stress that it is important for all artists (and other freelancers and self-employed people) to retain the right to be self employed/independent contractors.
- 3) Ask them to support legislation, regulations, existing and new programs, and any initiatives that create opportunities for teaching artists and protect the rights of adjunct faculty.

STATE BUDGET/FUNDING/SUPPORT

- 1) Ask them to support and work towards increasing funding for the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), so it can continue to support Massachusetts working artists through fellowship grants, grants for artists residencies, grants to nonprofit arts organizations, local cultural councils, and other key needed MCC programs.
- 2) Ask them to support funding for other state agencies and programs that support and provide work and opportunities for artists of all disciplines, including the Cultural Districts Program, the Cultural Facilities Fund, the Massachusetts Film Office, the Department of Conservation & Recreation, and state aid for our public libraries.
- 3) Ask them to maintain current tax credits for the film industry.
- 4) Ask them to support the arts and arts education in the public schools and to move from STEM to STEAM* in all state education programs and initiatives. (*Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math).