



## **Funding for Individual Artists in Massachusetts**

List compiled by the Massachusetts Cultural Council

*Please note that not every grant opportunity listed here will be right for every artist. Before applying, you should investigate whether each grant is a good fit, worth taking time and energy away from your work. Also, this list is by no means comprehensive; artists are encouraged to investigate other funding opportunities using the websites listed on page two.*

### **MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL PROGRAMS**

#### **Artist Fellowships Program**

This program provides direct, unrestricted grants (at \$10,000, as of the 2009 cycle) to individual artists who are Massachusetts residents. The highly competitive program is judged anonymously based on artistic excellence as evidenced by recent work. Categories rotate yearly; for example, Crafts, Film & Video, Music Composition, Playwriting, and Sculpture/Installation will be reviewed in 2009, and Choreography, Drawing, Fiction/Creative Nonfiction, Painting, Poetry, and Traditional Arts will be reviewed in 2010. More information, including guidelines, deadlines, eligibility requirements, and past fellows, can be found at [www.massculturalcouncil.org](http://www.massculturalcouncil.org).

#### **Local Cultural Council Program**

Whereas Artist Fellowships provide direct support to the artists themselves, Local Cultural Councils award smaller grants (typically averaging \$200-\$500) for projects that benefit a specific Massachusetts community. There are 351 cities and towns that support community cultural activity. You must explain in your application how your project will benefit that particular community and engage its residents. Funding criteria and priorities vary from town to town, so the best way to see if your project is right for a particular community is to contact that LCC (a list of LCC contacts can be found at [www.mass-culture.org/lcccontact.asp](http://www.mass-culture.org/lcccontact.asp)). More information, including guidelines, deadlines, eligibility requirements, and past awards, can be found at [www.massculturalcouncil.org](http://www.massculturalcouncil.org).

Check [HireCulture.org](http://HireCulture.org) and [MatchBook.org](http://MatchBook.org) for job and promotional opportunities in the arts

### **OTHER GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **LEF Foundation**

For the past 15 years, LEF Foundation has played a key role part in fostering and promoting contemporary art in New England. In fall 2008, LEF's Contemporary Work Fund, which has supported artists in different media including performing arts, visual arts, and music, will be in its final year. The 2009 cycle, its last, will accept applications for project support in visual arts and new media. After that, LEF will focus on supporting independent documentary film through its Moving Image Fund.

Individual artists applying for LEF grants will need to find a nonprofit organization to act as fiscal sponsor. More information, including how to apply, can be found at [www.lef-foundation.org](http://www.lef-foundation.org).

### **Artadia**

Founded in response to the decline of NEA funding for individual artists, Artadia offers unrestricted grants to visual artists in specific communities. In 2007, Boston was added as one of those communities, and a group of 10 visual artists/collaborations received awards ranging from \$1500 to \$15,000. Another grant application cycle is planned for winter/spring 2009. More information can be found at [www.artadia.org](http://www.artadia.org).

### **GRANT DATABASES**

Another way to find grant opportunities is through searchable grant databases, which allow you to set your own search criteria so you can find opportunities that truly fit your needs.

#### **artSource**

The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston offers a "comprehensive index of arts-related employment opportunities, internships, civic engagement partnerships, grants, residencies, exhibitions, competitions, public art commissions, artist workspaces, and related community resources," called artSource.

[www.smfa.edu/Student\\_Life/Professional\\_Development/artSource.asp](http://www.smfa.edu/Student_Life/Professional_Development/artSource.asp)

#### **NYFA Source**

NYFA Source is a searchable database of national grant opportunities, sponsored by the New York Foundation for the Arts. Don't be alarmed that the site is hosted by a New York organization; the database includes opportunities from throughout the country. You can set your own search criteria, which is useful for filtering out those that don't apply.

[www.nyfasource.org](http://www.nyfasource.org)

Further questions about funding opportunities for Massachusetts artists can be directed the MCC's program staff:

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Exhibitions Curator/Program Coordinator

Choreography, Crafts, Drawing, Painting, Photography, Sculpture/Installation

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Program Manager, Folk Arts & Heritage

Traditional Arts Fellowship, Traditional Arts Apprenticeship Program

*The Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) is a state agency that promotes excellence, access, education and diversity in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences to improve the quality of life for all Massachusetts residents and contribute to the economic vitality of our communities.*