

## Hudson Cultural Council Minutes

**Meeting Date:** November 1, 2022

**Location:** Zoom Meeting  
ID# 897 6021 9595

**Members Present via Roll Call:** Lawrence Fine (entered at 7:06), Peter Fiske, Lindsay Kelkres, Ellen Kisslinger, Patricia Luoto, Doris Monteiro, Debbie Papa, Donna Specian

**Members Absent:** Cheryl Lombardo

**Others in Attendance:** Anthony Monteiro

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Patricia Luoto, Co-Chair.

On a motion by Debbie Papa and seconded by Peter Fiske, the members voted 7-0 by roll call to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2022 council meeting. Lawrence Fine was not present for the vote.

### **New Business:**

Debbie Papa announced that she was able to amend the financial report with the Mass Cultural Council to include the \$3500 allotment from the Town of Hudson and to place \$1500 from an unclaimed grant award into encumbered funds so that the total amount to grant for Fiscal Year 2023 is \$22,697. She also reported that there is \$600 set aside for the council's administration funds.

Patricia Luoto provided the council with an overview of the initial screening process. Doris Monteiro gave a brief review of the council's funding priorities and its local guidelines. A spreadsheet which included these priorities and guidelines as well as the MCC's panel book list of grant applicants and requested amounts was shared on Zoom with all attending the meeting. There were 27 grants requesting a total of \$24,761 to review with \$22,697 available to award.

An initial screening of each application consisted of "qualify" or "do not qualify" based on council funding priorities and/or local guidelines. It was determined that eleven of the twenty-seven applications fell into the "do not qualify" category. After discussion, the council members stated a reason for denial on each grant that would not receive funding.

- A motion was made by Peter Fiske and seconded by Ellen Kisslinger to deny funding to the following grants proposals based on the reason that the applicant did not provide enough public benefit for our community compared to other proposals we received. The six grants denied for this reason are: *Artspace, Inc. # FY23-LCC-46204; Clear Path for Veterans New England, Inc # FY23-LCC-34277; Nashoba Valley Chorale # FY23-LCC-40713; Patrick Smith # FY23-LCC-42710; Special Needs Advocacy Network, Inc. #FY23-LCC-37804; and The Clafin Hill Music Performance Foundation, Inc. # FY23-LCC-36594.* The council voted 8-0 by roll call to approve the motion.
- A motion was made by Donna Specian and seconded by Debbie Papa to deny funding to the following grants proposals based on the reason that the applicant did not have a valid local sponsor letter. The four grants denied for this reason are: *Darrell Crow # FY23-LCC-41514; Marilyn Morales #*

*FY23-LCC-36177; The Musary, JRP Inc. # FY23-LCC-45245; and Union Contemporary Magazine # FY23-LCC-47261.* The council voted 8-0 by roll call to approve the motion.

- A motion was made by Peter Fiske and seconded by Donna Specian to deny funding to the following grant proposal *Nashoba Symphonic Band #FY23-LCC-38103* based on the reason that the applicant did not meet our council's published local guidelines and priorities. The applicant failed to submit the required final paperwork for a previously awarded HCC grant. The council voted 8-0 by roll call to approve the motion.

The council then proceeded to review and discuss the grants that qualified for this funding cycle all the while deciding which grants to partially or fully fund giving priority to those projects within Hudson. One grant was removed from the list to be voted on as a block due to a concern with a potential conflict of interest.

When voting on the grant submitted by the *Hudson Cultural Alliance, Inc. #FY23-LCC-25799*, Pat Luoto stepped down from chairing the meeting and Donna Specian took over this portion of the meeting as Co-Chair. Donna led the discussion regarding the award of this grant application. Debbie Papa made a motion, seconded by Peter Fiske to partially fund the grant with an award of \$3800. Having an affiliation with the HCA, both Patricia Luoto and Lawrence Fine abstained from the vote. The motion was approved via a roll call vote of 6 to 0.

Following the Hudson Cultural Alliance vote, Pat Luoto resumed the Chair's position for the rest of the meeting and led the discussion on the block voting of the remaining grants to be funded as well as the preliminary amounts to be awarded for each grant. After Doris Monteiro read the Applicant Names on the list of qualifying grants, a motion was made by Donna Specian and seconded by Lindsay Kelkres to vote the qualifying grants in a block via a roll call vote. The fifteen grants included in the motion were: *Assabet Valley Camera Club # FY23-LCC-33075; Assabet Valley Camera Club # FY23-LCC-33083; Assabet Valley Chamber of Commerce, Inc. # FY23-LCC-38711; Assabet Valley Mastersingers, Inc. # FY23-LCC-39378; Boys and Girls Club of MetroWest, Inc. #FY23-LCC-30133; C.A. Farley Elementary School # FY23-LCC-28322; Discovery Museum, Inc. # FY23-LCC-34529; Green Hudson, Inc. #FY23-LCC-45363; Hudson Division of Recreation # FY23-LCC-32561; Hudson Public Library # FY23-LCC-33746; Hudson Public Library # FY23-LCC-43931; Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild, Inc. #FY23-LCC-34410; Sounds of Stow, Inc. # FY23-LCC-36321; Virginia Thurston Healing Garden, Inc # FY23-LCC-35508; and Women of Note, Inc. # FY23-LCC-40464.* The council voted 8-0 by roll call to approve the motion.

MCC regulations require that once LCCs generate the denial letters that a reconsideration period of fifteen days be observed before completing their annual reports after which time the approval letters can be sent out to grantees who have received funding.

### **Old Business:**

There was a follow-up to Aileen Sanchez-Himes' email discussed at the October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the council where she requested that funds from grant *#FY22-LCC-2991 Step into History and Culture* be used for a future event. Ellen Kisslinger had met with the Library Director to discuss her plans and provided the council with an update. Aileen is looking to hold the same program at either Hudson Fest or at the Hudson Arts Fest in 2023 and will be submitting a letter to the council describing how she plans to hold the same level of programming as outlined in the original grant application awarded funding in the 2022 Fiscal Year. The information should be forthcoming so that it can be discussed and voted on at the next council meeting on November 29, 2022.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Peter Fiske and seconded by Debbie Papa. The council voted 8 to 0 via a roll call to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 PM.

**Future Meeting:**

**Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022** at 7:00 PM – To follow up on any grant reconsideration requests, to prepare for the HCC annual report, to elect new officers, and to set up meetings for 2023

Respectfully submitted,  
Doris Monteiro, Secretary