

MARBLEHEAD CULTURAL COUNCIL



Photo Credit: Jim Murphy

The Marblehead Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils (LCCs) sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council which serves all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. As the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, the Local Cultural Council (LCC) Program enriches the cultural life of all of these cities and towns in Massachusetts. Led by municipally appointed volunteers, LCCs award \$7.5 million every year, supporting 7,500 cultural programs that include everything from field trips to lectures, festivals, and dance performances.

In 2024 the Massachusetts Cultural Council allotted \$7,800 to the Marblehead Cultural Council to fund selected community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities. The Marblehead Cultural Council reviews applications in the fall and announces grants in the early winter for the upcoming year. 21 applications were received and 11 awarded. All of these events and projects took place during the 2024 calendar year:

1. 100 Years of Boston Comedy (\$250), Nick Zaino
2. Aerodynamic STEM Workshop (\$450), Ed the Wizard
3. Global Music Discovery Series (\$1559), Me & Thee Music
4. Nature in Your Neighborhood (\$300), Ipswich Wildlife
5. Marblehead Oil Paintings (\$2000), Olesea Fiodorova
6. Marblehead Freedom Trail (\$1186), Teresa Collins
7. "Anneliest" Choral-Instrumental (\$300), Cantemus, Inc.
8. 6th Annual Indigenous Peoples' Day (\$2000), Leah Bokenkamp
9. The Forgotten Poor (\$1250), Meghan Boehmer
10. Rhapsody at 100 (\$2000), Matthew Arnold
11. On the Trail of Family Roots (\$900), Abbot Public Library

The Marblehead Cultural Council solicits input from Marblehead residents every year to request their feedback as well as their preferred interests and opinions on events the Council might fund and sponsor in the future. In 2024 this information was collected via an on-line survey available on our website and linked to a QR code published in the Marblehead Current and displayed on posters throughout popular

town establishments. This feedback directly informs the application guidelines and priorities which are reviewed and updated at the end of each summer.

The Council worked this year to enhance communication channels. Each grantee was assigned a liaison contact from the Council for support throughout the project. The Council website was significantly updated and enhanced including repositories for both current and historical resources. Press releases and on-line announcements were publicized when the application period opened and when grant decisions were released. The Council had frequent communications with the Massachusetts Cultural Council throughout the year.

In June the Marblehead Cultural Council hosted an open reception to congratulate, meet, and honor the 2024 grantees and their families at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Marblehead. The North of Boston Program Officer from the Massachusetts Cultural Council attended. This type of event is specifically encouraged by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Marblehead Cultural Council members are appointed by the Marblehead Select Board. In 2024 the Marblehead Cultural Council consisted of twelve members including Jennifer Uhl (Chair), Jeanie Stahl (Co-Chair), Aaron Liber (Secretary), Jim Murphy (Treasurer), Katherine Barker, Joe Dipoli, Rose Gould, Alexandra MacAaron, Marjorie Norman, Mark Philip, Lisa Seltzer, Howard Rosenkrantz (Ex-officio). The appointments of Lauren Fogle (Secretary) as well as Nisha Austin ended mid-year, and Barbara Rosenberg resigned.

Public meetings are generally held every six to eight weeks at the town library with agenda items posted via the town clerk's office. Meeting minutes are posted on the Marblehead Cultural Council website.

Contact and further information can be found at:

Website: [MarbleheadCulturalCouncil.org](https://www.marbleheadculturalcouncil.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MarbleheadCulturalCouncil>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mhdculturalcouncil>

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Chair's Home Phone: 781.631.4430

Respectfully Submitted, Jennifer Uhl, Chair

Marblehead Cultural Council



[massculturalcouncil.org](https://www.massculturalcouncil.org)