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Marblehead Cultural Council



MARBLEHEAD CULTURAL COUNCIL AWARDS 2026 GRANTS

Grants have been awarded to local individuals, non-profits, and other organizations to support the arts, humanities and science education.

Marblehead, MA January 7, 2026 — The Marblehead Cultural Council (MCC), one of 351 local organizations that are funded directly from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, has awarded grants for 2026 including funding for live music, historical performances and programming, art installations and workshops.

Jeanie Stahl, the MCC Chair, states, “Our council enjoyed reviewing 20 broad and varied applications from members of our local arts and culture community. We are pleased to announce that we have awarded nine inspirational grants to enliven, enrich and deepen Marblehead’s creative arts scene throughout 2026.”

The Marblehead Cultural Council grants support to community cultural, artistic, scientific and historical activities. These grants will benefit the town and are accessible to Marblehead residents. The MCC places an emphasis on new, emerging, and established artists and programs in local venues as well as racially and culturally diverse programming.

Interested parties can learn more at <https://massculturalcouncil.org/local-council/marblehead>.

The following is a detail of the grants identifying the **Grantee**, Project, and Description with proposed date and current location.

Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary

*Nature in your neighborhood - All about birds in Marblehead
Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary*

A Mass Audubon teacher-naturalist will provide a 2-hour nature walk at Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary to highlight the many birds living in the neighborhood.

Location: Marblehead Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Marblehead, MA

DATE: May, 2026

Marblehead Museum and Historical Society, Inc.

Resistance and Resilience: Slavery and Freedom in Marblehead

Marblehead Museum was granted funds to support the inaugural, semi-permanent (3+ years) exhibit in the accessible Jeremiah Lee Brick Kitchen & Slave Quarters building. This exhibit will examine and share the stories of individuals throughout Marblehead who were enslaved during the Colonial Period. Through stories, artifacts, images, and documents, visitors will understand that these individuals, despite being oppressed, sought and found ways to express their humanity.

Location: Jeremiah Lee Brick Kitchen & Slave Quarters, 157 Washington Street, Marblehead

DATE: From June 1, 2026 and onwards

Marblehead Festival of Arts, Inc.

Marblehead Festival of Arts- Performing Arts

The Marblehead Festival of Arts, a Non Profit all volunteer organization founded in 1962, hosts a week long Art Festival with activities for people of all ages to participate and enjoy. This grant will support the live music portion of the Festival, where over twenty bands over four days/ nights are showcased.

Location: Crock Park, Marblehead

DATE: July 2 – 6, 2026

Salem Sound 2000, Inc./ Salem Sound Coastwatch

School to Sea: Connecting Marblehead Families to Salem Sound

Salem Sound Coastwatch (SSCW) will bring hands-on marine science education to Marblehead through their School to Sea program, a series of family-friendly events that deepen residents' connection to Salem Sound and the coastal ecosystems in their own backyard. Through programs with Marblehead Recreation and Abbot Public Library, preschool and elementary-aged children and their families will explore intertidal habitats, encounter live marine animals like crabs and sea stars, and take part in age-appropriate stewardship activities that protect local marine life. Led by SSCW's experienced educators, each session combines storytelling, games, and hands-on science to inspire curiosity, build early STEM skills, and foster lifelong ocean stewardship in the Marblehead community.

Location: Marblehead Community Center and at Abbot Public Library, Marblehead

DATE: Various in 2026

AgeSpan, Inc

Community Murals for senior residents of Marblehead Public Housing

AgeSpan Resident Services Coordinator (RSC) and residents of Farrell Court have been granted funds for a communal mural project to revitalize concrete planters in the common green space at the Farrell Court Apartments housing authority. SPUR North Shore, a service organization, will contribute in-kind by preparing the planters for painting. This opportunity will enliven this space with public art.

Location: Farrell Court Apartments, Marblehead Housing Authority

DATE: April, 2026

Donna Cotterell

Three Heroic Revolutionary Captains from Marblehead

"Three Heroic Revolutionary Captains from Marblehead" is a three-part public history lecture series led by Marblehead Town Historian Don Doliber, exploring the courage and sacrifice of three local sea captains who helped shape the course of the American Revolution. Each month, April through June 2026, will highlight one figure: Captain Michael Corbett and the Pitt Packet incident, Captain James Mugford's early Revolutionary heroism, and Captain Samuel Trevett's leadership at Bunker Hill. The April program will feature selected readings from a companion play by Donna Cotterell, connecting dramatic storytelling with deep historical scholarship. Together,

the programs illuminate Marblehead's military valor and its lasting contributions to the birth of the nation.

Location: Gerry Five/VFW and Abbot Public Library, Marblehead
DATE: April – June, 2026

Lanes Coven Theater Co Inc.

Romeo & Juliet at Marblehead High Lanes Coven Theater

Lanes Coven Theater Company working with the Marblehead High School English Department will bring guest teaching artists to the English classes in February/March during their Romeo & Juliet unit, and present a professional performance of the play in the auditorium.

Lanes Coven is an actor-driven professional theater company producing Shakespeare and classical plays for Cape Ann, North Shore and its visitors.

Location: Marblehead High School, Marblehead
DATE: February and March, 2026

Windy Pham, Founder of Little Ant World

Vocies of Heritage: AAPI Art & Education Workshops

Ms. Pham will host an educational workshop/ event that will feature bilingual book readings, free book giveaways, live cultural performances, hands-on arts and crafts, and food tastings. Designed for both children and parents, the program combines learning with interactive activities that highlight the traditions, history and AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) culture. Through storytelling, art, and cultural exchange, we aim to promote awareness, celebrate AAPI heritage, and strengthen community connections.

Location: Abbot Public Library
DATE: To be announced

Friends of North Shore Children's Museum, Inc

Marblehead Free Days

The Museum will offer several Free Day admission sessions at North Shore Children's Museum for Marblehead residents. North Shore Children's Museum brings together children, families, and their community with accessible, hands-on learning through play. Their vision is to create inclusive, welcoming spaces and learning experiences that use the power of play to nurture the imagination, engage families, and strengthen the community.

Location: North Shore Children's Museum, 10 Main St. Peabody MA
DATE: Various dates in 2026

In addition, the following event from last year's award is now scheduled for February 25, 2026 from 6:0) -7:30 pm.

Nick Zaino

The 80s Comedy Boom: A Boston Comedy History

Veteran arts journalist Nick Zaino takes the audience through the rip-roaring 80s comedy boom in Boston, from the dearth of clubs in the late 70s to the Hub's swinging heyday with comedians like Steven Wright, Lenny Clarke, Jimmy Tingle, Steve Sweeney, Barry Crimmins, Paula Poundstone, Bobcat Goldthwait, Janeane Garofalo, Marc Maron, David Cross, and more. It's a living history – many performers from that era are still playing Boston to this very day.

Location: Abbot Public Library, Marblehead, MA
DATE: Feb 25, 2026 6 - 7:30 PM

For additional questions, The Marblehead Cultural Council can also be reached at MarbleheadCulturalCouncil@gmail.com.

ABOUT THE MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL

As the Commonwealth's independent state arts agency, Mass Cultural Council is charged with bolstering the creative and cultural sector, thereby advancing economic vitality, supporting transformational change, and celebrating, preserving, and inspiring creativity across all Massachusetts communities. More information can be found at: <https://massculturalcouncil.org/>.