



Power of culture

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 3, 2020
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LOCAL GRANTS AWARDED FOR **BERNARDSTON, MA**

Massachusetts Legislators Paul Mark & Joanne Comerford and Kristina Costello, chair of the **Bernardston Cultural Council**, have announced the award of **17** grants totaling **\$5,256**, for cultural programs in **Bernardston**.

Previous grant recipients include **Cushman Library, Silverthorne Theater, Franklin County Technical School, Pioneer Valley Regional School, Bernardston Elementary School**. A complete list of recipients and grant amounts can be found below.

The **Bernardston Cultural Council** is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

Decisions about which activities to support are made at the community level by a board of municipally appointed volunteers. The members of the **Bernardston Cultural Council** are: **Kristina Costello, Jeana Bachinski, Cynthia Fulton, Debra Mielke, Jess Schulte, Annette Wadleigh-Mackin, and Beth Watrous**.

Statewide, more than \$3.3 million will be distributed by local cultural councils in 2020. Grants will support an enormous range of grass-roots activities: concerts, exhibitions, radio and video productions, field trips for schoolchildren, after-school youth programs, writing workshops, historical preservation efforts, lectures, First Night celebrations, nature and science education programs for families and town festivals. Nearly half of LCC funds support educational activities for young people.

The Bernardston **Cultural Council** will seek applications again in the fall. For guidelines and complete information on the **Bernardston Cultural Council**, contact Kristina Costello at **978-413-3078** or **kristinajcostello@yahoo.com**. Applications and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at www.mass-culture.org. Applications are due **October 15, 2020**.

This year's grants include:

Applicant	Project Title
Cushman Library	Concerts by the Pond
MUSIC Dance.edu	Hip Hop Dance Chair Exercise for Seniors!
Roger Tincknell	From Ireland to America
Deborah A. Potee	Heritage Festival Pioneer Band Trip
Pioneer Valley Symphony	Pioneer Valley Symphony Education Concert
Cushman Library	Library Street Block Party
Debra Wood	Love Rocks
Dianne Cornwell	Clay Painting
Ed the Wizard (Ed Cope)	Magic for Seniors
	Pastel Paint Your Georgia O'Keeffe Miracle Flowers
Gregory Maichack	Hilltown Families Suggests
Hilltown Families	Exploring the Past
Jennifer Comiskey	Paul Revere's Midnight Ride
Jennifer Comiskey	Authors and Artists Festival
Joan Stoia	7th Annual Pocumtuck Homelands Festival
Nolumbeka Project, Inc.	Monthly Racial Justice Program Series
Racial Justice Rising	
Tim Van Egmond, Folksinger & Storyteller	Performance at Senior Center