

Framingham Cultural Council FY2022 Annual Report

The Framingham Cultural Council is responsible for ensuring that Mass Cultural Council funds and other donations are distributed broadly to Framingham's creative community, through grant awards and scholarships, providing public awareness and recognition that reflects the city's cultural diversity.

For 2022, the Framingham Cultural Council received 40 grant applications requesting a total of \$55,977 and gave out 26 grant awards totaling \$46,706, a 27% increase over last year's \$33,800.

In addition we received donations for the Rita and Bill Collins Memorial Arts Scholarship fund to provide three Scholarship awards to graduating high school students to help further their education in the arts. These scholarships awards went to Kathleen Najarian (drama), Chelsea Perreault (ceramics) and Jake Coutu (photography).

Framingham Cultural Council gave a Special Recognition Award to David A. Smailes, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Political Science at Framingham State University' and a Special Recognition Award to Frederic A. Wallace, Ph.D. City Historian from Framingham History Commission and Community Preservation Committee member.

Framingham Cultural Council held an awards reception event with the attendance of the scholarship grantees, the gentlemen receiving a special recognition award, and some of the grant awardees. Charlie Sisitsky, Framingham Mayor, Dr. Robert Tremblay, FPS Superintendent of Schools, Jack Patrick Lewis, Framingham State Representative, and Ricardo Guillaume from the Mass Cultural Council also attended.

The FCC was delighted to introduce our new website with information on the grant award process, the 2022 grant awardees (including pictures and links), the arts scholarship awards, and the FCC award receptions. Also available on the website is a new member welcome kit, with information and links to help new FCC members become integrated quickly and to provide a reference for existing members.

Mauricio Perea (Chair), Leslie White Harvey (Vice-Chair and member until January 1, 2022), Rick Gelfand (Vice-Chair after January 1, 2022), Cindy Walsh (Treasurer), Anita Danker (Clerk), Everton Vargas da Costa, Nate Joslin, Debbie Kardon, Charlie Kiefer, Lois Levick , Stephanie Jean Noel (until January 1, 2022), and Joel Winett (Ex-Officio).