

Framingham Cultural Council FY2023 Annual Report

The Framingham Cultural Council (FCC) is charged with distributing funds from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC) and other locally raised funds to individuals and organizations that support art programs for the Framingham community.

For 2023 The Massachusetts Cultural Council gave to the Framingham Cultural Council \$44,700, a \$2,000 decrease from last year's \$46,706. The FCC received 43 grant applications requesting a total of \$59,906. The FCC awarded 33 grants for a total of \$48,194, making use of other Cultural Council funds, compared with 26 grant awards totaling \$46,706 in 2022.

In addition to grants, the FCC gave three scholarship awards to Framingham High School seniors to help further their education in the arts and related fields. These scholarships awards went to Emily Spalding (Play Author), Andrew Gomes (On the Saxophone) and Isabel Feudo (Painting).

The FCC recognized the Framingham Centre Common Cultural District's "Many Cultures, One Heart" program with the 2023 Framingham Cultural Council Contributor of the Year Award and gave a Special Recognition Award to Susan Klein, a creative teacher of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) at FAESL, FSU, and Mass Bay Community College.

The FCC has a website with information on the grant award process, listing all of the 2023 grant awardees (including pictures and links), the arts scholarship awardees, and the special awardees . Also available on the website is a new member welcome kit, with information and links to help new FCC members become integrated quickly in the council's activities.

The Framingham Cultural Council held a reception awards event with the attendance at the program including some of the grantees, the special recognition awardee, the contributor of the year awardee, the Collins Scholarship awardees and Charlie Sisisky, the Framingham Mayor.

The Framingham Cultural Council wants to increase public awareness of cultural activities in the city and especially the activities that reflect the city's cultural diversity. Framingham Cultural Council meetings were held using Zoom and in-person. The members at the end of FY2023 were:

Mauricio Perea (Chair), Rick Gelfand (Vice-Chair), Joel Winett (Treasurer), Anita Danker (Clerk), plus members Lois Levick, Charlie Kiefer, Debbie Kardon and Nate Joslin.