

Framingham Cultural Council FY2024 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 2024 the Framingham Cultural Council gave 47 grants totaling \$49,700. The Massachusetts Cultural Council website has information on the MCC grant award process and lists all of the 2024 MCC grant awardees. See: [Framingham – Mass Cultural Council](#). In addition, the FCC awarded 2 special grants using other available funds.

In addition to grants, the FCC gives Scholarship awards to high school seniors who are continuing their education in the arts. For 2024 the FCC awarded a scholarship to Framingham High School seniors Anna Adams and Brenna McCarthy and to Keefe Technical High School senior Mark Connor Bingham. The scholarships are given in memory of Rita and Bill Collins who were past supporters of the Cultural Council.

The FCC 2024 Contributor of the year award was given to both Anna Tucker and Patrick St. Pierre for their work as co-curators of the current Framingham History Center's Exhibit Framingham's Collective Journeys: Stories of Immigration, 1960 – Present. Special Recognition awards were given to Dr. Montano, educator, and to Bill Rabkin, video volunteer. Dr. Montano was recognized for contributing to integration of immigrants into the Framingham community through education. Bill Rabkin was recognized for his willingness and dedication to creating videos for the Framingham library and other organizations.

The Framingham Cultural Council held their annual Awards Reception event on Thursday, May 2, 2024, in the Costin Room of the main Framingham Library at 6:30 p.m. The library director, Dawn Dellasanta, introduced the host for the event, Timothy Alexander, a member of the FCC.

In attendance were some of the grantees, the special recognition awardee, the contributor of the year awardees, and the Collins Scholarship awardees. Representatives Kate Donahue and Jack Lewis along with Susan Nichols, representing Senator Karen Spilka, presented citations to these awardees.

The attendees were entertained by scholarship winner and vocalist Anna Adams, Kevin Driscoll, ventriloquist; Performing Arts Center student guitarists Luke and Bryce Atchison; and members of the local choral group Voices of MetroWest.

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 are held using Zoom and in-person.

The members at the end of FY2024 were: Mauricio Perea (Chair), Rick Gelfand (Vice chair), Joel Winett (Treasurer), Anita Danker (Clerk), Timothy Alexander, Julie Sullivan Green, Nathaniel Joslin, Lois Levick, Kathy Mello, Kerry Najarian, and Eric Volkin.



Anna Tucker, Bill Rabkin, and Patrick St. Pierre receive citations from Susan Nichols (on behalf of Senator Spilka) and Representatives Kate Donahue and Jack Lewis



Scholarship Awardees: Anna Adams, Brenna McCarthy, and Mark Connor Bingham



Cultural Council Members present: Rick Gelfand (Vice chair), Kerry Najarian, Anita Danker (Clerk), Timothy Alexander, Lois Levick, Kathleen Mello, Joel Winett (Treasurer), Julie Sullivan Green, and Eric Volkin.



Timothy Alexander, host for the event, and the audience in the Costin Room of the main Library