

The Framingham Cultural Council held its annual awards reception on Thursday May 8th at the Framingham Public Library.

The Chair person, Kerry Najarian welcomed guests and thanked everyone for supporting the arts and creative culture that is so important to the City of Framingham.

FCC member Tim Alexander served as host for the event and introduced the many award honorees, scholarship recipients, and other speakers for the evening.

The Heritage Chorale a local adult, audition based singing group began the night with beautiful harmonies.



The Rita and Bill Collins Memorial Scholarships were awarded to 5 high school students who have demonstrated their talent and will continue their arts education after high school. The 2025 scholarship winners:

Elizabeth St. Louis and Nico Harutunian – both from FHS for excellence in Performing Arts, Evan (Trevor) Seliverstov from Keefe Tech for excellence in Digital Art, Naima (Pluto) Amazulu and Genesis Dominguez Rivas both from Keefe Tech for excellence in Visual Art. We wish them the best of luck as they graduate and move on to further their educations.

City Councilor Leslie White Harvey was on hand to present the students with citations from the Framingham City Council. We appreciate the support of the City of Framingham and the dedication of these talented students.



The night continued with award presentations to people that make Framingham a better place:

FCC Clerk Eric Volkin presented the Contributor of the Year award to Howard St Studios for their travelling art exhibit “Views of Framingham”.

FCC Vice Chair presented a Special Recognition award to BRACE (Brazilian American Center) for their years of dedication and assistance to the immigrant community. FCC Treasurer Joel Winett presented a special recognition award to Helen Heineman, former Framingham State University President. Dr. Heineman continues to serve the Framingham community through the Life Long Learners Lecture Series.

State Representatives Priscilla Sousa, Jack Patrick Lewis and Kate Donohue were there to support the community as well. They presented citations for the award winners and scholarship recipients from the MA House of Representatives and Massachusetts Senate.



Framingham Cultural Council grant recipients also entertained the audience between speeches:

Singers Caroline DiPalma and Ruby Howard from the Performing Arts Center of Metrowest (PAC)
The Natya Dance Collective

And the cast of SIX (teen edition) from A Common Thread Theatre Company.

Grant recipients who were present also had the opportunity to speak and tell us all about their programs. The Framingham Public Schools, the Callahan Senior Center, The Danforth Museum, the Framingham Disability Cultural Series, Friends of the Framingham Trails are just a few of the groups in attendance who shared their work with us. For a full list of grantees, please go to:

[Framingham – Mass Cultural Council](#)

There were over 100 people in attendance who enjoyed the entertainment and learned about the many cultural program that are happening in Framingham.

The Framingham Cultural Council is proud to support all of the creative individuals and groups in Framingham as they truly make our community a better place.



Some of our amazing grantees

