



Culture creates



Power of culture

Image credit: from “Void” (2024) by Shozab Raza.

Captioning and ASL Interpretation

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- Live Captioning and ASL interpretation are available for this webinar.
- To turn on or hide the captions click on “Live Transcript” at the bottom of your Zoom window.
- Streamtext URL in chat.

Welcome

Presenters:
Dan Blask
Kelly Bennett
Summer Confuorto
Christian Kelly

Questions and Recording

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- We will answer questions via Zoom's Q&A feature throughout the webinar.
- A recorded version of this webinar with captions will be published to Mass Cultural Council's YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/MassCulturalCouncil>

Today's agenda

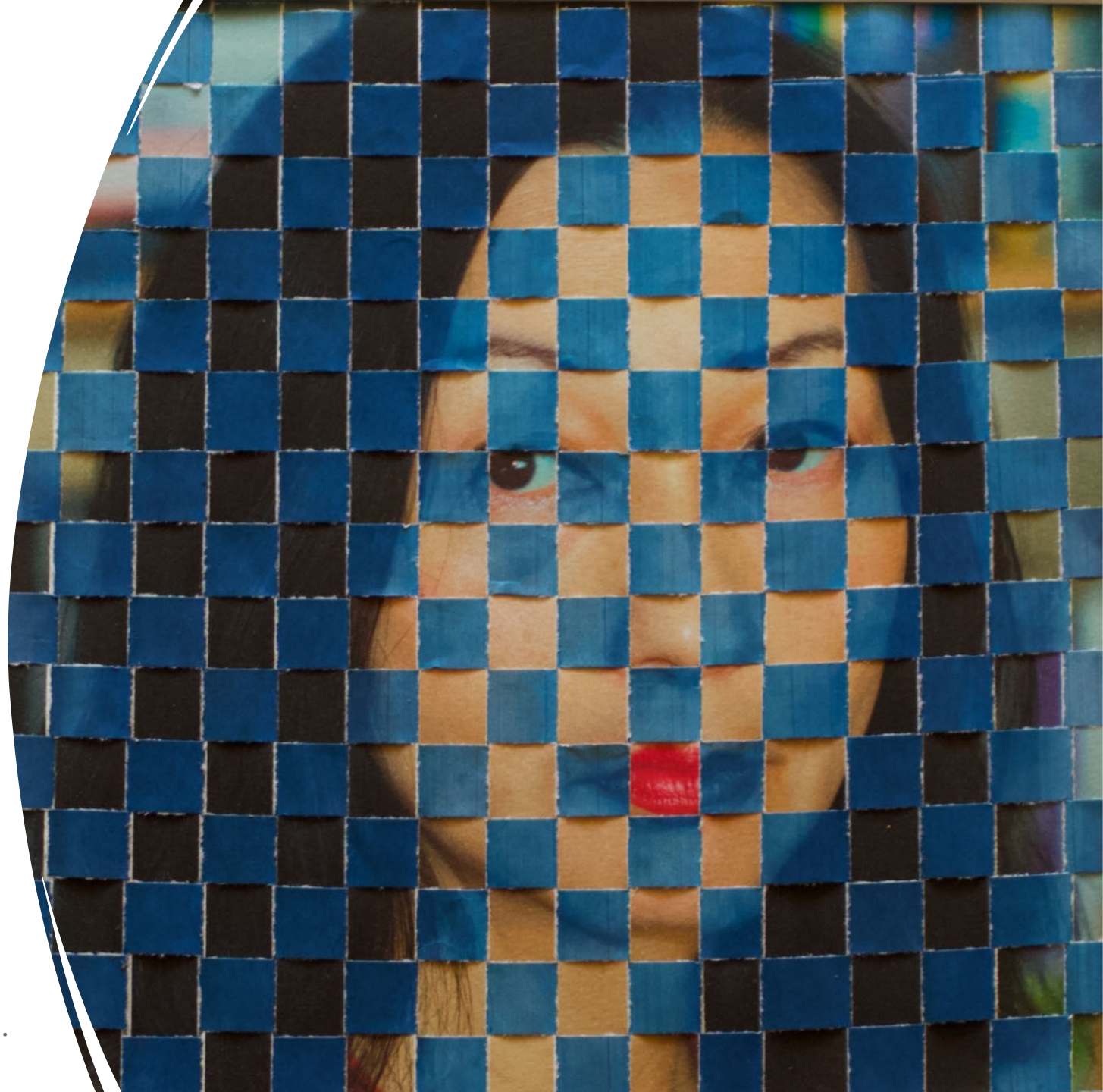
- Program Overview
- Eligibility
- Application Information
- Timeline
- Questions?

Program Overview

Grants for Creative Individuals

- Primary grant for individuals
- Equitably support creativity
- Artists, culture bearers, and creative practitioners in all artistic fields

"Analog Girl in a Digital World" (2023) by Lisa Tang Liu.



Program Mission

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To equitably advance **creativity** throughout the Commonwealth with unrestricted grants to individuals who demonstrate **achievement of creative expression** and **commitment to their artistic/cultural practice**

Program Eligibility

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Alexis Hedrick, photo by Clinton Blackburn.

You are eligible to apply if you are a(n):

- **Artist**
- **Culture bearer**
- **Creative Practitioner**

In any artistic/creative discipline or cultural tradition

Program Eligibility Continued

PLUS, you
meet FIVE
criteria:

You are **18 or older**

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You are a **full-year resident** of
Massachusetts

No direct grant over \$2,000 **in past
three years**

You are **not a full-time student**

You are **not a Mass Cultural Council
staff** or Council member or family of
staff/Council

Grants are \$5,000

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**Unrestricted: Grantees
decide how best to
support their own
creative practice**



"Double Consciousness in a Museum in Boston" (2025)
by Cynthia Yi Chen.

How to Apply

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"Oh No (Sant Agata)" (2024) by Rachel Rizzo.

- **Brief Personal Info**
- **Artist Narrative**
- **Work Samples**
- **Funding Priorities Questions**

Artist Narrative

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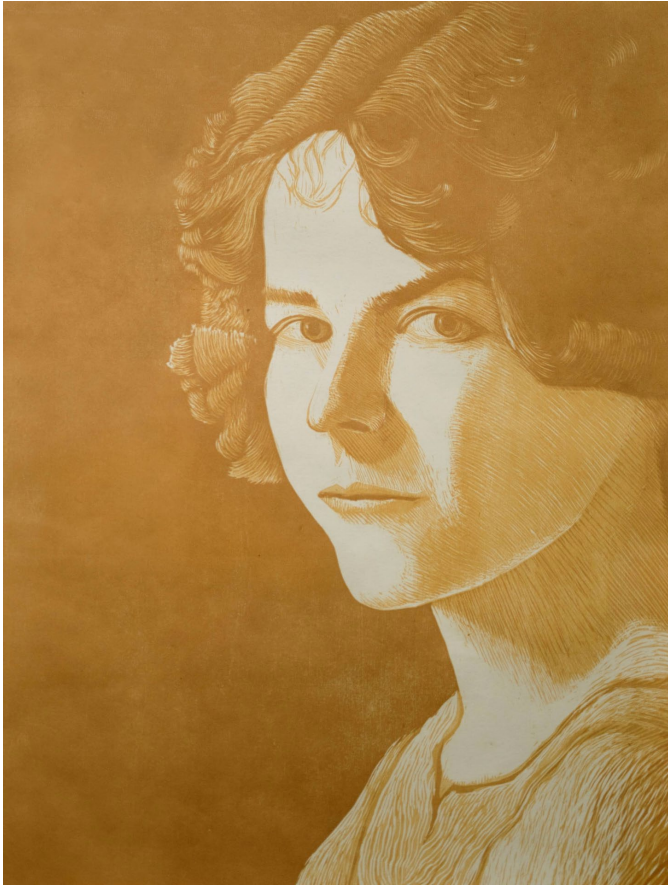
- Brief!
- 1,500 characters or 2 minutes or fewer
- Text, Video, or Audio



"Designated Hitter" (2023) by Brendan Sullivan.

Things to Consider

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"Dr. Helen Rodriguez-Trias" (2024) by Julie Rivera.

- **Achievement of creative expression**
- **Commitment to your artistic/cultural practice**
- **What do we need to know about your work?**

Work Samples

FIVE Images/Pages/Min.

Can be:

- Document(s)
- Image file(s)
- Video(s) or Audio file(s)



“Black Sea Planets” (2024) by Marky Kauffmann.

How Will Grants Be Decided?

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- Geographic Distribution
- Funding Priorities
- Reviewers' scores

Public art by Danielle Gallietti (2025).

Geographic Distribution

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Grants awarded by county in proportion to the county's application demand

Make sure your address is up to date



Detail of "The Road Goes Ever On" (2021) by Rebecca Loechler.



Funding Priorities

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- **New Grantees**
- **Historically Underfunded applicants**
- **Traditional Artists/Culture bearers**

"Made for Lobos" (2024) by Javiera Garcia.

Traditional Artist Priority

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How do you sustain tradition?

How does your community regard your work?

Applying to support your own work or traditional arts apprenticeship?



Quahog shell art by Aquinnah
Wampanoag artist Donald Widdiss

Apply Using Grants Management System

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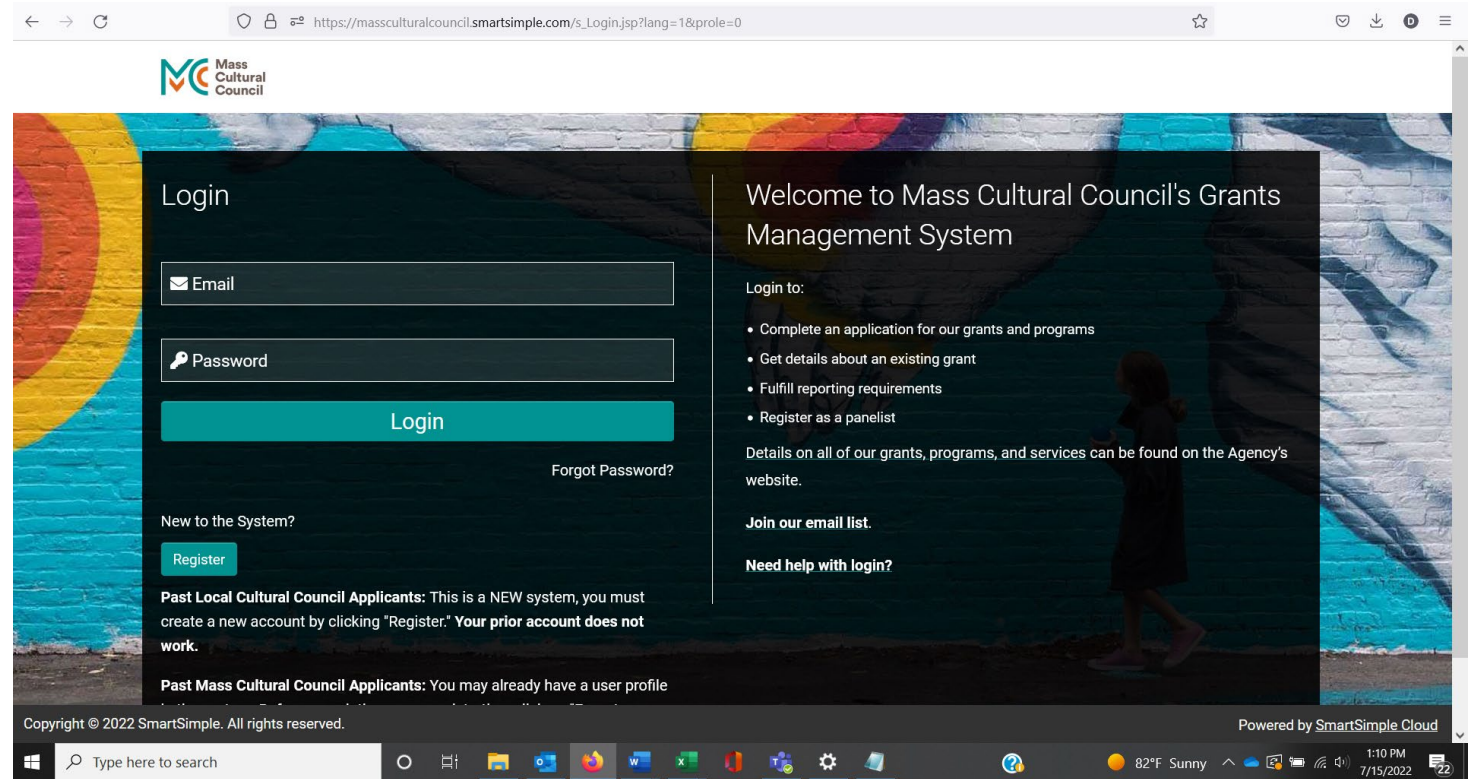
<https://massculturalcouncil.smartsimple.com>

Your email address is your username - your unique ID

Have you applied to past Mass Cultural Council grants?

Yes – log in or click “Forgot Password?”

No – click “Register” to create Profile



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL https://massculturalcouncil.smartsimple.com/s_Login.jsp?lang=1&prole=0. The page features the Mass Cultural Council logo at the top left. The main content area is divided into two sections. On the left, under the heading "Login", there are input fields for "Email" and "Password", a teal "Login" button, and a "Forgot Password?" link. Below this, a "New to the System?" section includes a teal "Register" button. A note for "Past Local Cultural Council Applicants" states that this is a new system and users must create a new account. Another note for "Past Mass Cultural Council Applicants" mentions that users may already have a profile. On the right, a "Welcome to Mass Cultural Council's Grants Management System" message is displayed, followed by a "Login to:" section with a bulleted list of actions: "Complete an application for our grants and programs", "Get details about an existing grant", "Fulfill reporting requirements", and "Register as a panelist". Below this, it states that details on grants, programs, and services can be found on the Agency's website. There are also links for "Join our email list" and "Need help with login?". The footer includes copyright information for SmartSimple and a "Powered by SmartSimple Cloud" badge. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the date and time as 1:10 PM on 7/15/2022, along with weather and system icons.

Mass Cultural Council

Login

Email

Password

Login

[Forgot Password?](#)

New to the System?

[Register](#)

Past Local Cultural Council Applicants: This is a NEW system, you must create a new account by clicking "Register." **Your prior account does not work.**

Past Mass Cultural Council Applicants: You may already have a user profile

Welcome to Mass Cultural Council's Grants Management System

Login to:

- Complete an application for our grants and programs
- Get details about an existing grant
- Fulfill reporting requirements
- Register as a panelist

Details on all of our grants, programs, and services can be found on the Agency's website.

[Join our email list.](#)

[Need help with login?](#)

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Start Early!

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- Heavy web traffic on deadline day
- Expect delays
- Late applications will not be accepted

Madhumita Nambiar performing classical Bharatanatyam.

Grant Facts

- Taxable Income
- Contract paperwork including notarized document
- Impact to Public Benefits
- Intercepts for State Debts



Detail of "Garden Party I" (2025) by Susan Montgomery.

What is the timeline for this program?

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Application Deadline: October 27, 2026 at
11:59:59pm ET

Award notification (anticipated): Late February 2027

Grant arrival (anticipated): April/May 2027

No Final Report necessary



“Path Unwinding” (2025) by Deborah T. Colter.

Other Opportunities for Individuals

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- **Local Cultural Councils:** grants to support local cultural projects, Oct 15 deadline
- **ArtSake:** online resource to support Massachusetts artists
- **HireCulture:** database of cultural employment opportunities
- **Artist News:** e-newsletter to support Massachusetts artists



Questions?

Add questions to Q&A – we'll do our best to answer!

Email: creative.individuals@mass.gov



Still image from "Nihal's Garden" by Champika Fernando.